

Undo What Was Done

by Magz2015

Category: HakuÅ•ki/è-„æ;æé-¼

Genre: Fantasy, Romance

Language: English

Characters: Hijikata T., Sanosuke H.

Status: In-Progress

Published: 2013-05-04 23:52:16

Updated: 2016-04-01 05:03:14

Packaged: 2016-04-26 20:27:12

Rating: M

Chapters: 25

Words: 38,098

Publisher: [www.fanfiction.net](http://www.fanfiction.net)

Summary: Plauged by nightmares, Kishiko Shima and Otohime Akechi set out to find out what is causing them. And along the way meet those from the dream as they start to peace it together. But will they be able to fix what happened in the past? Or is history bound to repeat itself at the hands of a monster once more?

## 1. Chapter 1

Screams of women and children echoed around. The sound of blood dripping from bodies and being slung off swords. Flashes of white and red. People being murdered. Then a new scream would tear through the night.

Kaien raced down the hall for the third time that night and into his daughter's room. She was curled in a ball in the middle of her bed crying again. For weeks now, every night it was a fight to make her go to bed. And like clockwork, four times a night she would wake up screaming.

When he would ask her what was going on, it was all the same answer. It was the same dream of people in a past time killing each other. Rather graphic for a child of five years old to be dreaming. But Kishiko seemed happy and normal except for those damned nightmares. "I just hope that they stop soon. I don't know how much longer she can handle it."

That following morning, Kaien took Kishiko for her first day of preschool. He looked over at her smiling happy face and sighed. During the day she showed no sign ever having those awful dreams. "Kishiko, you sure you want to start school today?"

Kishiko turned her bright green eyes toward her father. "I am ready papa. I want to go to school!" Her voice turning more into a pleading wine toward the end.

"But you are my baby."

"Papa! I am not a baby anymore! I am a big girl and they go to school!"

Kaien sighed as he reached over and laid a hand on her head with a smile. "I know. But remember that no matter how big you get, you are always going to be my baby girl."

"Can I go now papa?"

"Get. I will be here when you get out of school."

Kishiko smiled and giggled as she hopped out of her father's car and walked toward the school doors. When she got there she told the woman at the door where she needed to go and followed her as she took her to her class. Trying her best to remember the way so her father wouldn't have to walk her in or keep asking for help.

When she got to the classroom she walked in with a nervous smile and went straight to the teacher. "Hello. I am Kishiko Shima. This is my first day!"

Risa Kinomi smiled at the child as she stood and walked around to the front of the desk. "Well hello Kishiko. I am Mrs. Kinomi. I hope you like it here. Let me show you where your desk can be." Then she took the girl by her hand and walked over to the only empty desk there was in the room. "You can sit here next to Otohime Akechi. Otohime, this is Kishiko Shima. She is brand new so help me make her feel welcome will you?"

Otohime nodded and then turned to Kishiko. "It is really fun here and everyone is really nice. I hope we can be friends!"

Kishiko smiled and gave a sharp nod. "Best friends!"

Then the two girls gave each other a high five, but then gasped as their eyes go wide and they stare at each other. Flashes of the same people, the same deaths, the same sounds echo in their ears, then flashes of calm, pleasant scenes. Showing two women grown with children of their own. With their eyes!

Mrs. Kinomi reached out and put their hands down as she once again addressed them. "Girls! Are you two okay?"

Kishiko forced a smile and looked up. "We are fine. Why?"

Mrs. Kinomi arched an eyebrow. "Are you sure? You gave each other a high five then didn't move and both let out a gasp."

Otohime thought quickly for a second then gave a nervous laugh as she rubbed the back of her head. "It is just that we thought we did it too loud. We are sorry if we worried you Mrs. Kinomi."

"Very sorry." Quickly added Kishiko as she vigorously nodded her head up and down.

Once the teacher walked away Otohime turned to Kishiko with wide eyes. "You saw it too didn't you. And heard it?"

"I was about to ask you the same thing? For weeks now I have had the same nightmare over and over again. It scares me."

"I know. It scares me too." Then she bit her lip and sighed. "Do you want to talk about it later?"

"What do you mean?"

"My brother and father won't let me talk about it. They tell me that I shouldn't talk about bad things that upset me. But I feel like I have too. And if I don't get to talk about it to someone then I willâ€¦|.."

"Go crazy."

"Exactly."

"May I?"

"We can talk about it together whenever you want!"

The two small girls hugged and from that day forth were inseparable. The only time they were apart was when they had to go home and go to bed. As fate would have it, from first grade all the way through 12th grade they had every single class together.

Their first job was as a waitress and they worked the same place, the same hours. As they went through high school though, because they were always together and not all that social with the rest of the students, it lead to them being picked on. Otohime, whom from the start had always been extra sensitive when it came to what others thought about it always took it really hard compared to Kishiko.

Kishiko would just shrug it off her back and be done with it. Yet seeing her best friend suffer at the hands of the bullies proved to be too much for her. And instead of not saying anything and going on about her own business she started standing up to them, and defending both herself and Otohime. Which drew the girls even closer together.

Finally, they were 18 years old and were old enough to move out on their own. They were still working as waitresses so money wasn't plentiful, but they did find a small two room efficiency apartment that was just the right price for them and moved in together.

And even through all this time, the nightmare persisted. They stopped screaming when they woke, so their families thought that the nightmares had went away. But that was far from the case and soon the two of them would be sent on an adventure of a lifetime. To reunite with friends they have never met. To find a love that stood against the passage of time. And fix what has been undone.

## 2. Chapter 2

Screams break the tranquility of the day. Blue coats rushing all over the place. Flashes of white and red swirling around. The sight and sound of death all around. A sudden sense of fear, then a man with white hair and glowing red eyes charging. Another man with red hair

and a spear jumps in. Blood splatters everywhere as the sword goes through his chest. A lingering look of apology then it goes black. Visions of herself laying on the ground, her life's blood pooling around her stomach as she stretches a hand toward the man's hand before both fall still, a breath away from touching each other.

Kishiko wakes with a start and shoots straight up in bed. The same dream. The same dream she has had since she was five years old. But something seemed different this time. Usually she would just wake up breathing heavy. Tonight, something was off. Something wasn't right at all.

The sound of a knock on her door nearly made her flinch then she sighed. "Come on in Otohime."

Otohime walks in with her long hair flowing behind her as she sits on the end of Kishiko's bed. "We have them at the same time every single night don't we?"

"It seems that way."

Remembering an old woman who claimed to be a clairvoyant a few weeks back at the mall makes Otohime shiver. "Do you think that woman was right? That we are dreaming about a past life where we were murdered?"

"I don't know what to think anymore. But I do know one thing, I let it slip to my dad when I had lunch with him yesterday that I was still having the nightmare. He didn't seem pleased to hear that and cut me off before I could say anything else to him."

"My father won't even talk about the past anymore cause he still blames himself for the nightmares. I keep telling him it wasn't cause of the book."

Kishiko sighs as she stands up and stretches, her wavy black hair cascading to her knees. "I know. I think it is best that if anyone asks we stopped having them."

"Yeah."

Both girls jumped when they heard a knock on the door then gave each other an odd look. Kishiko looked at the time and then glared at the door. "It is 2am who the hell goes around knocking on peoples doors!?" Then grabs a bat and goes to the door flinging it open then stopping before she swung. "Father? Mr. Akechi?"

Kaien and Akatsuki looked at each other and nodded. This was the hardest thing that they ever had to do. Sending their daughters to the insane asylum but it was for their own good. Without warning they shocked their daughters by rushing in and grabbing them so they couldn't get away. Kaien turned and looked out the door as he struggled with Kishiko. "Come on in!"

Kishiko turned her head to look over her father's shoulder and then her eyes went wide and she fought even harder. "What the hell are you doing!? I am not crazy!"

Kaien strained to keep her in control while the assistants from the

asylum worked to get both her and Otohime sedated. "It is for your own good! I am sorry baby girl."

Kishiko felt the stick of a needle, then a scream. As her eyes blurred she saw that Otohime had also been injected with something. As her eyes started to drift closed she turned to her father as a single tear fell from her eyes. "Howâ€¦..couldâ€¦.you?" Then it all went black.

x

Kenji walked into Keisuke's office with a sigh and dropped two files on his desk. "Here you go. I will deal with them for the first week, then after that, you get your very own patients. As of next week these are the only two you have anything to do with."

Keisuke looked up with an odd look. "Are you serious?"

"I am. They are suffering from the same thing you were when I found you in Med School."

"Nightmares?"

Kenji nods as he crosses his arms. "Nearly the same one that you had back then. Speaking of which, I noticed the bags under your eyes. They haven't come back have they?"

"No. I will finish up my final report on this patient then get started going over their files Sir."

"Good."

After Kenji leaves Keisuke can't help but look at the files really fast. He thought it was odd that they didn't have photos but all the rest of the information was detailed. "I guess I will see what they look like when I meet them for the first time next week."

As he reads over the information he starts to get a sickening feeling in the pit of his stomach. When he reaches the part where the father's of both girls recanted word for word the dream that the girls had, or rather nightmare, he breaks out into a cold sweat. "It has to be just a coincidence that it is just like the nightmare I have been plagued with."

Sitting the files aside he finishes up his reports and then leaves. As he walks home he can't help but recant the nightmare that assailed him at night when he was a child. His mother thinking that something was trying to possess him. His father thinking that he was just a retard growing up never gave him the strength he needed to truly deal with them. Then he met Doctor Keiji Kazama and the medicine that he gave him suppressed them.

It was vile and thick like blood, but it worked. "I wonder if he will have me use it on them to do the same thing?" Shaking his head he walked on home and put the two women that he would have charge of in one week far from his mind.

Kishiko groans as she wakes up and slowly opens her eyes. When she registers that there is someone crying in the room she sits up and her eyes go directly to Otohime. "Otohime!" She launches herself off her bed and across the room to pull the shivering crying girl into her arms and began to rock her.

Otohime held onto Kishiko for dear life. "Where are we Kishiko? Why would our father's let them do that to us?"

"They think we are crazy. They think that cause we have nightmares that we have gone insane and this is an asylum."

"We are not crazy though!"

Before Kishiko could say anything the door opened and in walked a doctor. It was his eyes though, his eyes held a coldness that Kishiko didn't like nor did she trust. Glaring up at him she didn't even try to hide the venom in her voice. "Why are you forcing us to stay here? We are not crazy."

"My dear your father's had you admitted here for a six month watch. The nightmares you have had have seemed to have upset your daily life."

"Like hell! They are nightmares. They wake us up, we sit up for a few and then go back to bed and we are fine. We work full time, had our own apartment and life was great!"

Sighing Kenji shook his head. "Well I doubt that everything is fine if you have had to lie to your parents that you are even still having them."

Kishiko glared harder. "I only have one parent. Besides last I heard that meds can't make dreams stop."

"Actually there are many things that can help you get a nights rest without entering REM. That is the stage of sleep when you dream. When you can sleep that sound. However it will be a drawn out process to get your body use to it. That is what we will try for the next six months."

Kishiko and Otohime both looked up with a gasp. "Six months! Are you insane?"

Kenji sat down the two vials of meds and turned with a sigh. "I will be here to check on you once a day and to bring it. I will leave it up to you whether or not you want to drink it. I have already treated someone with it with great results." Then he was just gone.

Otohime looked at the vials sitting on the night stand. "Do you think that we should. I would like to know what it was like to sleep without the nightmares. But then again, that clairvoyant from the mall. I did research on it, and I found that some dream of past lives like that to warn them of something coming."

Kishiko slumps against the wall. "If you want to try it we will try it. But not for a couple of days. I want them to see that just cause we have them that it doesn't screw with our sleep like they all seem to think it does."

"That is a good plan. Kishiko, was there something different in your nightmare that you had last night?"

"Different? How so?"

"Like something was off about. Not something different per say but more like it was more real than any other time that we had them."

"Yeah I got that too. Instead of just a dream, it was like I was living it and could feel what was going on. Way off from normal."

x

"Toshizo. Are you going to wake up you bastard."

"Shut up Sanosuke."

"Come on get up." Sanosuke walks over and kicks Toshizo in the side. "We got to get moving again. They are starting to question why we are two guys with six kids again."

With a growl and a groan Toshizo sits up and looks over to his three kids sleeping. All he knew about their mother was what she looked like from the nightmare that he was plagued with. It was not until he met Sanosuke that he knew it was more than just a nightmare. That his wife, and Sanosuke's wife was out there somewhere going through the same thing. And it was only a matter of time before they found each other.

"Come on Toshizo lets get going before it gets too bright outside."

Toshizo and Sanosuke get their things together and what they can carry for their kids, the youngest one being a new born of Sanosuke and his wife. The eldest being Toshizo's son of five years old. Once they get things together, they get out into Sanosuke's van and then leave the apartment they had been in for only a few months.

Such was their life. The kids never grew older than what they were right now. Nor did they themselves age anymore. So they could only stay in one spot for so long before people started to question why they always had kids that never aged or why they didn't.

Sanosuke. "So where do you think we should head now?"

Toshizo sighed. "I say we head to the place in our dreams. The only place I ever known to look like that was Kyoto."

"Do you think that they are in Kyoto to?"

"I don't know. But I do know that we will meet up with them at one point. When I don't know but it will happen."

#### 4. Chapter 4

There was quiet. Laughter could be heard. Children played together. The smell of cherry blossoms filled the air. The atmosphere was light and cheery as everyone laughed and watched as the children played.

Then there were screams of terror from off in the distance. Suddenly there was a sense of dread as everyone rushed around. The sounds of the children screaming for help. The sound of a baby wailing and then just silenced. Flashes of blue clashed with flashes of white. That sudden sense of fear to see red eyes charging. The same man with red hair flashed before her, before she saw the blood covered sword from his back. Her eyes met evil red eyes. Then she felt the pain in her stomach as she was stabbed. Flashes of murdered children. Then two hands reaching desperately toward each other, only to fail a hair from touching.

Both Kishiko and Otohime woke with a startled gasp and then turned to look at each other with shocked looks. Otohime flew from her bed to Kishiko's as sobs raked her body. "Lets take the medication now Kishiko. Don't give it a few days. I felt it. I felt myself die. I saw the children being slain. I don't want that in my head! I never dreamed that before."

Kishiko held Otohime as she rocked her. From the time they met in kindergarden it had always been Kishiko that was the strong one that never showed her emotions and looked after Otohime who was always so frail compared to her. "Alright. Alright we will take the fresh ones he brings us tomorrow."

Otohime nods. "Why did they get worse after we got here?"

"I don't know. But I am beginning to think that woman at the mall was right about one thing. That it is a past life. I just don't know what we would be dreaming like that for."

Moving back to her bed and laying down all Otohime did was nod. "Me either. But lets just try the medicine. Even if it doesn't take it away from us, and just takes us back to how we were a week ago I will be elated with that."

"I hear ya on that one."

They sat up and talked to each other about everything they could that wasn't about the dream at all. Then the door opened and Kenji Kazama walked in with breakfast and fresh vials of medication for them. As he set the food and medicine down picking up what he left the night before he sighed. "You are going to drag it out the full six months."

Otohime shook her head no. "We are not. We are going to take it today. Our nightmare changed last night. Instead of seeing and hearing, it. We felt it too. It was like we weren't dreaming but really there."

Kenji frowns at the girls. "Yes the medication will do best for you both. I am going to assign a doctor that I trust with even my own life. He will treat you and make sure that the medication does its job."

Kishiko glares at the doctor. Even though he was trying to help them she just couldn't help but think that something was off about him. But for Otohime she would try it. After he left she reached over and looked at the red vial as Otohime downed hers.

Coughing and hacking Otohime twisted her face in a grimace. "That



stuff is disgusting. I swear it is almost like we are drinking blood."

"Really?"

"Please Kishiko?"

Sighing Kishiko takes the lid off and downs it making the same nasty face that Otohime did then reaches for the food. "Damn that is disgusting."

x

Keisuke is sitting in his office going over the girls files as he figures out a plan of action for them and in treating their problem with nightmares when he hears a knock on the door. "Come in?"

Walking in Kenji stops at Keisuke's desk and leans over it. "You don't get them in six days you get them today. You take their lunch into them. They are on the same medication that you are on for yours. I didn't tell them that you suffer from the same thing as them. I will leave it to you if you want to tell them or not."

"What brought this on all of the sudden?"

"They told me this morning that their nightmare changed last night. It was the same thing, but instead of images, it was like they felt what happened to the women in the nightmare."

Keisuke arched his eyebrow as he looked at Kenji odd. "Really?"

"It is odd to say the least. They are all yours." Then he left with a glare on his face. 'Those two can't remember anything. Or it will ruin everything!'

Sighing Keisuke sits down and looks over the files for the rest of the morning. Though the fact that there were no pictures in the files was odd to him. But there was something about these two and what was in their files that told him that this was going to be anything but a normal case for him.

x

The hours seemed to trudge by as Kishiko and Otohime sat and made small talk, but mostly watched the wind blow the leaves outside. Each going over the last nightmare in their heads but thinking two different things about it. But both were sure that it was a past life where they were murdered by some guy with white hair and red glowing eyes.

Kishiko interpreted it as just that a past life. Nothing that had anything to do with the modern world. But that they must just be connected in the subconscious mind. Otohime however had a different idea, but didn't know what to think of it. Even awake she kept seeing the flash of a man in her mind. He had shorter hair but longer as well. Kind eyes and glasses. He was playing with children and all smiles.

Finally not being able to hold it back anymore she looked over at

Kishiko with a sigh. "Kishiko do you think that the dreams are more than just dreaming or having nightmares about our past life?"

"I doubt it."

"Oh."

"Why are you asking?"

"Well I see him in the dream. And I have seen him every time I close my eyes since we woke up. He has glasses andâ€|."

"Kind eyes that show compassion with shoulder length brown hair."

Gasping Otohime jumped over to Kishiko's bed. "You see him too?"

Kishiko nodded. "When I see him in my dream he is playing with kids. I hear a baby somewhere and last night I felt like I was holding the baby with an arm around me as everyone laughed."

"That is what happened in mine at first. Then the fighting started. And someone with the deepest amethyst eyes and long black hair tried to save me but died in the process and I was next."

Leaning back against the wall. "I still see the guy with red hair and amber colored eyes with the spear try to save me."

There is a knock on the door and the girls look up expecting to see Doctor Kenji again but both gasp and their eyes go wide when that is not who walks in. But the man from their dream! He was in different clothes, but it was him! It was the man playing with the children!

Keisuke looked up as he walked in and he couldn't help but gasp and his eyes go just as wide as the girls when he looks at them. Flashes of the nightmare he hadn't had in years flashing through his eyes. The only thing he can do is sit the tray down and turn and rush out the door. He leans against the door and covers his face with his hand as he begins to breath heavily. 'It has just be a coincidence that they look like the women of my night mare. But they do, exactly like them even down to the hair styles!'

Shaking his head he rushes off to his office to buisy himself doing something to get over the shock of the seeing them. And hoping that he would be prepared for when he went in to see them that night and give them another dose of the medication.

## 5. Chapter 5

All Kishiko could do was stare at the now shut door. Now she didn't think that what Otohime said was that farfetched after all. It was him. Different clothes but the man was the same. And she couldn't get that look of shock at seeing them out of her mind either. "Okay I get what you are saying Otohime."

"It is something that we have to do." Fresh tears rolling down her face Otohime turned to Kishiko with a desperation in her eyes. "What

we have to do is remember what they all looked like and convince them who we are and that we are not crazy!"

"I don't know how easy that is going to be. He looked at us like he knew us. More than likely cause he has had nightmares too."

"So then it should be easy to convince him!"

"Otohome we are just now figuring this out after a life time. Not all of them will be open to what we would have to say. I am not even sure if I fully grasp what is going on here."

Sighing as she leaned against the wall next to Kishiko she slumped her shoulders down. "I guess you are right. We will get a taste as to how long it is going to take to get the others to believe us with Sannan."

Looking at her Kishiko arched an eyebrow. "Sannan?"

"Yeah. That is his name isn't it?"

"I have no clue he didn't say his name. Gaspd went bugged eyed then left."

With her own eyes wide again Otohome looked down in her lap. "But I know it. I don't know how I know it but I know when we see him again his last name will be Sannan."

"Whatever his name is he looks like he is going to be a hard nut to crack. Just don't say anything to him right now."

The rest of the day was spent with the girls going over the different people in their nightmares in detail for the first time. Each knew who the other was talking about but the only name right now they knew was Sannan and not sure how Otohome came up with that either. But one thing was for sure. They did know beyond any doubt that their nightmares were not just nightmares of a past that they were murdered in. They were visions of a past that needed to be changed here in the future.

x

The gentle pull of a little hand on his clothes. The giggle of another that he held. Flashes of other men sitting around laughing. Two women, one with a new born. The feeling of a bond when looked into deep amethyst eyes. Then there was screaming and racing around. The women and children pushed inside a secret room. Flashes of white hair and red eyes as he stood his ground but there were too many of them. The pain in his gut and chest as blades are shoved through them. The screams of the women as they run past him away from the intruders. A feeling of helplessness as his vision fades.

Keisuke woke with a start at his desk with wide eyes. He hadn't had that nightmare in ages. Not since after he met Doctor Kazama. 'Could it be because the two girls look nearly identical to the women of my dream? That has to be it. There is no other logical reason why.'

Looking at the time he sighed as he stood and headed for the cafeteria to get them something to eat and give them their nightly

dose of medication. Deciding as well that he should take some home with him to take as well.

As he approached the girl's room he mentally prepared himself at seeing them again. He gave a quick knock then walked in with a gracious smile. "Hello. Forgive my sudden departure earlier today. I had not expected to find two patients in one room."

Kishiko couldn't hide the glare that plastered on her face. "My ass. You have seen us before haven't you?"

"Until this afternoon I have not."

Otohome looked up at him with fresh tears once again in her eyes. "You have seen us before but not in person. Just like we have seen you before. In our nightmares. You have had them too haven't you Sannan?"

Forcing himself not to react outwardly he turned slightly widened eyes from Kishiko to Otohome and arched his eyebrow. "I do not remember telling you my name earlier. Though I must have."

Kishiko glared. "You didn't. But obviously it is your last name isn't? Proving our point."

Looking back at Kishiko Keisuke blinked a few times. "Your point about what?"

"That you are part of our past lives and need to be part of our future lives as well to prevent some crazy thing with white hair and red glowing eyes from killing everyone."

"I think there is more wrong with you than the nightmares." Keisuke then sat their dinner down and the medication. "In a few days when the medication starts working if you would like some fresh air might do you both some good."

Tears streaming down her face as she hugs her knees to her chest Otohome looks up at him with a pleading in her eyes and voice that was foreign even to her. "I am not crazy. I know that you know who we are. Why won't you just tell us that you know?"

Sighing he stands straight and fixes his glasses. "I am Keisuke Sannan a resident physician here at the clinic. Doctor Kazama has assigned me to the two of you for the duration of your visit with us. If there is anything you need then just let me know." Then he starts to turn around and leave.

Kishiko glares at his back. "Yeah stop holding us here against our will." Then threw her slipper at the door when he just walked out without even so much as a glance back at them. "I don't like him."

Otohome forced a smile as she wiped away her tears. "Well you said it wasn't going to be easy right?" Then she reached over and picked up a vial of medicine. "This stuff is nasty but I hope it works soon."

"I don't care either way. But for your sake Otohome I hope it works too."

x

Breathing hard as they hid in a room beneath the floor Sanosuke and Toshizo glared up at the ceiling as they heard the sounds of people walking around. The place was old and abandoned and yet it was like they knew where the room was. After what seemed like hours the footsteps started to filter out and thin. Finally there were what sounded like only two men up above them.

"Well they aren't here. Even the dogs didn't get a hit on anything in here. I wonder where they could have gone though?"

"I don't know sir. Why were we after them anyway?"

"A woman had her son at the park and thought it was strange when another boy started yelling that he wanted his mother but saw some guy pick him up and just walk off. We don't know if it was cause it was his son and he was just throwing a fit or not."

"I see. Why did we look in here anyway? The other men were talking about how this place is haunted by the spirits of the shinsengumi that made this home during the civil war."

"Hogwash. That is what this place was but it is so dilapidated now. Guarantee that all the haunted stuff they talk about is just because it is falling down in most of the places."

Then they began to walk and not too much longer Sanosuke and Toshizo both heard the doors of a car, then it was gone. They managed to give them the slip.

Sanosuke looked up at the trap door they slid in. "Well at least she stayed quiet for us right?"

"Yeah." Toshizo then pushed the door open and they all climbed out and looked around. "What I am more interested in is why and how we knew that it was even here. I don't know about you but this is the first time that my kids and I have been in Kyoto."

"It's ours too. Maybe it is tied into the past. Those blue coats are of the Shinsengumi. We both wear them at some point in the dreams."

"Are you seriously suggesting that we were part of the wolves of Mibu?"

"It makes sense. This is the condemned old headquarters of the shinsengumi in Kyoto. We ran right here and straight for this room. That has to mean something doesn't it?"

Toshizo sighed as he looked around. "It would about have to be. I never thought that I would actually meet someone from the nightmare that had the same thing, just from a different point of view. And then there is her."

"Yeah. I know we are connected to them somehow. Just how is the question."

"Only time will tell that Sano. Only time will tell."

## 6. Chapter 6

A full month has passed since Kishiko and Otohime were forced into the Asylum. They now, for the first time since that day sat outside next to each other in the sun. Though both were somber and lost in thought.

Whatever the medicine was that they were giving them was finally starting to take effect. For them both it was starting to go hazy. And last night at least for Kishiko the dream stopped all together. Otohime still had one, but it was more haze with no sound according to what she said.

She looks over at Otohime who seems to have gone back inside herself. Like she was sinking into a depression. She started to say something to her but stopped when she heard two nurses talking nearby. She strained her ears to hear and her eyes went wide when she heard what they were saying.

"Did you hear Akiho? About the murders around here at night?"

"Shhhh! I don't like to hear anything about it. It is nearly pitch black out when I finally get to my street at night."

"Have you heard any details about it?"

"Yume. They are dead. What more do I need to know than there are some killers out there that don't even care to kill children. I heard the last family, had a baby that was only three days old."

"That's right. And before the screams of the ones being killed, neighbors report hearing a bunch of laughing."

"Laughing?"

"That's right. They say that it is loud and crazy. Like a maniacal scream of enjoyment. Like they are enjoying what they are about to do. Then they year it again drift into the night when the screaming stopped."

Listening to the conversation Kishiko had not noticed that Sannan was talking to her. When she heard a snap by her head she jumped and looked up at him. "What?"

Keisuke sighed. "You were starrng off into space. Are you alright? Would you like to return back to your room?"

Looking down then over at Otohime who was looking at her with a worried look. "Yeah I think we need to. Is that alright with you Otohime?"

Otohime nodded as she looked down. She pushed Kishiko into taking the medication, but now she didn't know why nor could she explain why she was feeling so depressed now. It was like she was forgetting and the thought of forgetting those in her nightmare was causing her draw into herself. 'How can I tell her I don't want to take it anymore?'

Keisuke glanced over his shoulder and sighed. "You know the two of you might want to talk to the psychiatrist. They aren't bad you know."

Glaring up at him Kishiko crossed her arms. "Neither of us need a shrink thank you very much."

Turning his head without a word he walked on to their room. Before leaving he left two more vials of medicine on their table the left. He would do what was required of him for five more months. After that they could leave and he would never have to see them again.

Otohome downed her medicine the same time that Kishiko did. Then she looked over at her with a worried look. "Why didn't you hear Sannan when he said your name?"

"I was listening to the nurses. They were talking about murders where you hear maniacal laughter before and after whole families, homes are slaughtered."

Gasping she covered her mouth and started shaking. "Why does that sound familiar to me? It is like I should know what that is but something is blocking it."

"I know. That is what I was thinking when I didn't hear him."

The rest of the day they spent in dead silence until the sun finally was gone and the room was dark. They said their goodnights and then drift off to sleep.

x

Keisuke was on his way home, but his mind was still at work on his two charges. There was something not right with them and he knew it. He knew the toll that ignoring those dreams could have. He was near a nervous break down when he was found by Doctor Keiji. That was when he stopped and reached in his pocket and circled his arms around the medication that he brought with him.

He hadn't had to take the medicine in years. His dreams had been completely suppressed, or so he thought. But the arrival of Kishiko Shima and Otohome Akechi has caused them to flair back up just with that first meeting with them. Shaking his head he withdrew his hand from his pocket and walked on toward home.

As he rounded the last corner he stopped and starred in absolute horror! His neighbors were being slaughtered. Men with white hair, wearing the jackets of the old Shinsengumi were destroying them with swords! He choked back vomit as he turned and started to run the other way. Hearing their maniacal laughter echoing off the buildings, and getting closer and closer to him as he fled. Then just as he reached the clinic again, the sounds were no longer behind him. He no longer heard the laughing. He no longer heard the footsteps behind him.

Turning around he saw the red glowing eyes that hung in the night as they watched him. He was froze in fear. He knew those eyes. He knew that laughter. Then his eyes went even wider as flashes of his dream came full force into his head at once. The women and children in the hidden room. Himself in Meiji Era clothes. In the blue jacket of the

Shinsengumi. The same red eyes he sees now lurking closer to him. His only thought were protectingâ€¦. "Kishiko and Otohime!"

He turned and ran into the clinic and straight to his office. Sweat beading his face as he recanted his dream. Realizing that it was so much more than a dream, or a nightmare, he pulled the medicine from him jacket pocket and slung it up against the wall. Then he sat down as he looked at the red thick liquid that so resembled blood slowly glide down the wall. "Tomorrow. I will tell them everything tomorrow."

## 7. Chapter 7

The breeze was blowing gently. Three little children with their faces hid ran and played in a court yard. Sitting under a cherry blossom tree sat two adults who held hands and smiled and laughed as they watched the children. He turns to the woman and looks deep into her eyes and whispers. "Never forget." Then lips pressed gently to hers. Then he was just gone.

Otohime woke with a start, tears streaming down her face. A strange pain in her heart. Like the love of her life just left her. She turned and found Kishiko also sitting up, crying. Sobs taking over her body she charged over and wrapped her arms around Kishiko's waist. "I don't want to take it anymore!"

"Huh?"

Looking up at her best friend she pleaded. "I don't want to take the medicine anymore. I thought I could remember. The only thing I remember is Sannan and that is cause we saw him before we took it. I don't remember the rest of them. I don't want to forget! It hurts to bad to try to forget Toshizo!"

Kishiko sighed. She knew what she meant. The man with the amber eyes and red hair. That was all she could remember about him. She couldn't remember anything else about him. Not even his hairstyle! "I was going to tell you the same basic thing today. I thought forgetting it all would be a blessing, but it is turning out to be painful."

"We won't take it anymore?"

"Nope. By the way who is Toshizo?"

Sitting up and whipping her eyes Otohime looked up. "I don't know who he is. The name came to me as soon as I woke up. I don't know which one he is but I know that this is not what I wanted! I wanted to remember and it is making me forget!"

Pulling Otohime into her arms again Kishiko smiled. "I know. I know. First thing in the morning when Sannan comes in we tell him to take it and shove it. Then spend the next five months figuring out where we are going. I love my dad butâ€¦"

"It was our father's that put us in here making us go through all this. I love him but I can't be near him right now."

"Exactly."



Keisuke stood just outside the door. His eyes still bloodshot from the lack of sleep. Flashes of his neighbors being murdered mixing with flashes of children being slaughtered from another era. He reached out and touched the door. He had to offer them the medication. But he would tell them the next time they were outside that they didn't have to take it just cause it was offered to them. And about his nightmare and how it centered on them. He opened the door with his usual bright smile as he entered the room. "Good morning. You slept well I trust?"

Kishiko glared as he sat the medicine on the table. Enough was enough. She played along with taking it, and not talking to him about the fact that he knew them and was just denying it. She wasn't going to shut up any more about it! Or take that damned medicine! She reached out and grabbed both vials and slung them past his head to shatter on the door, the red slowly sliding down the white door. "I have kept my mouth shut long enough Keisuke Sannan! Would you stop resisting it and just admit that you have nightmares too. We are in those nightmares and that is why you freaked out the first time you saw us! And we refuse that damned shit! We thought sleeping would be good, and that after having the nightmares for so long, we wouldn't forget them. But we were starting to forget. I can't forget him. I can't forget Sanosuke!" Tears were streaming down her face from sheer frustration near the end.

Otohome looked at her like she had three heads. "Sanosuke! You remembered a name to!"

Blinking Kishiko looked over at her. "I don't know why though? I don't even know who he is. I Have an idea but I am not sure."

"I cannot force you to take the medicine. But you are right. I had nightmares as a child. My nightmare was centered around two women and their children. Those two women were the two of you."

Gasping both girls looked up at him like he had ten heads. It was Kishiko who spoke. "Us and ourâ€¦children?"

Nodding he doesn't even look at them. "Later this afternoon I will take the two of you outside and for a stroll." Then his voice turned into a whisper. "I will tell you everything and why I will get you out of here as soon as I can." Then he left through the door.

Otohome smiled as fresh tears streamed down her face. "He remembered!"

Turning to her friend with a sense of dread in her eyes Kishiko let a single tear stream out of her right eye. "It is great that he has remembered, but do you not get what he said?"

"What do you mean?"

"He said that his dreams centered around us and ourâ€¦"

Gasping and throwing her hands over her mouth Otohome finally realized what he said. "Our children!"

Kishiko nods and then looks up. "Do you think they are the ones we hear?"

Curling up into a ball Otohime began to rock on the bed next to Kishiko. "I hope not. I know I couldn't stomach it if they were."

As the morning went on the girls sat and tried to remember everything. But nothing was coming to them yet. And then the peace of the day was broken with screams of terror echoing through out the asylum.

Kishiko jumps up and looks through the window and gasps as she pales. Her nightmare back in her memory full force as she turns and dives pulling Otohime under her bed and covering her mouth. "Don't make a sound."

Tears falling like rain, Otohime's eyes were wide open. Then maniacal laughter from outside their window triggered her memory. Her nightmare was back! But now was she going to die again just like she did in her nightmares?

Then suddenly the door opened and a face was looking under the bed. It was Keisuke! Otohime flew from under the bed and up into his arms, Kishiko followed. "What are we going to do? We are going to die!"

"Shhhhhhhh. We are going to be fine. But we can't just go outside the front door. Come on. Follow me I know another way out." He then lead the girls through the halls, having to step over bodies and walking through blood. As he rounded the last corner he stopped and pushed them into another room where they hid in another room, with two dead bodies already in it.

He watched out the window as he held Otohime close to him, and Kishiko clung to his back. 'What the hell are they? I got to get these girls out of here alive! If my dream is more than that, they hold the key to helping me figure it out. I know this. I failed them once in a past life I won't do it again!'

Once he hears the footsteps taper off he opened the door and pulled them with him as he ran down the hall and then through a double door. Once they were in the secret hall he slowed down and walked slowly.

Still clinging one hand on Sannan and the other hand on Kishiko, Otohime felt carefully with her feet as she followed him. "What is this place?"

With one hand sliding along the wall to keep his balance he squinted into the dark. "It is an old entry way. When this place was first built over a hundred years ago, this was the hall and entrance at the end where they kept the ones they thought were possessed."

Shivering she tightened her grip on him and Kishiko both. "Why did we come this way?"

"No one uses this anymore. No one has been in here in nearly a hundred years."

Once they were about half way down the hall they all froze and gasped. The door behind them opened and closed. A new set of footsteps could be heard with a low hehe sort of laugh. The sound of steel dragging the ground.

Without hesitation Keisuke grabbed each girl by a hand and took off running. "Come on!"

Once at the door he fumbled with the keys in his hand to find the one to unlock it and get outside. The steps and laugh getting closer with each passing second. "Come on, come on!"

Kishiko and Otohime were holding onto his clothes looking the way they came up the tunnel both shaking. When they heard the sound of the door at the end of the tunnel again open and close it was Otohime who turned to Keisuke. "Sannan! Hurry up we have to get out of here!"

"I am trying!"

Still watching behind them Kishiko could now see the glimmer of the red eyes. And just like with Keisuke her nightmare returned to her in full force. It was the same eyes she saw in her dream just before she was killed! The same eyes that killed the man trying to save her! And Keisuke! "Come on Keisuke! Move it!"

Glaring at his hands Keisuke glanced over his shoulder then ground his teeth together as he tried another key. 'Damnit come on!' Then as luck would have it the lock turned and he threw the door open as he turned to grab the hands of the girls. Red eyes narrowed as a sudden scream caused the creature to jump back. He grabbed their hands and pulled them with him as they raced across the yard and through a back gate that no one else knew about. It was the bad side of town but it would at least help them escape.

## 8. Chapter 8

Keisuke ran them through back allies, anywhere he could find a turn that would be more like a zig zag to try and get away from those things he took it. 'I let them down in the past I won't let them down this time!'

Though she was doing her best to keep up Otohime finally couldn't keep up this pace that Keisuke had set for them and fell to the ground still holding his hand. "I need to rest. I can't run anymore."

Falling on her knees next to Otohime, Kishiko nodded. "I agree. We obviously don't have the stamina that you do."

Breathing hard himself now he nodded and leaned against a wall to catch his own breath. Though he still listened for any screaming or laughing. 'What are they?'

"Sannan."

Turning to look down at Otohime he sighed as he softened his expression. "What is it?"

With tears streaming once again down her face Otohime looked up at him with a pleading look in her eyes. "Will you tell us what your nightmare was about now?"

Helping them both up with a sigh he held Otohime's hand, and she held Kishiko's as he started walking on. "Short version of it, I see myself playing with children. I hear two women and men laughing. I look over and see the two of you next to two men. Then all hell breaks loose as those things that attacked the clinic attack. I shove the two of you and several children into a safe room, that wasn't so safe. As I die on the floor you two and the children run. Then I wake up."

"Then our dreams must start where yours stops. We don't remember being in any room and running from it."

Nodding Kishiko glanced behind her. "Ours starts out with the same scene you described with seeing you playing with the kids and the other guys around us. Then it goes straight into us in the middle of those things. Some guy with red hair saves me."

"And a guy with black hair saves me. I want to call him Toshizo though I don't know why. And I don't know who he is or what he is to me." Casting her eyes down she sighed then she looked back up at Keisuke. "Will you help us find the rest of the ones in our dreams?"

Stopping to look down at us Keisuke blinked his eyes a few times. "Do you know how hard that is going to be? There are nearly a billion people in Japan. It won't be easy to find five or six people. No matter if we know what they look like or not."

With a glare Kishiko crossed her arms from behind Otohime. "But you are going to help right?"

Seeing more in her glare Keisuke smiled a nervous smile. "Of course. I just wouldn't know where to start."

"How about we do some research first. Starting with writing down what they look like. You never know, some of them may be local."

Arching an eyebrow Keisuke looked at Kishiko like she just slapped him in the face. "You really think that some of them are local?"

With a sigh Kishiko dropped her arms and looked down. "It is just a feeling I get when I think about it. I did research on Japan's old towns and cities. To see if I could see anything from my dream to know what is going on. The closest thing I can figure is that we are all from Kyoto."

"It makes sense. I was drawn to the history of Kyoto in college but I didn't know why it held such importance to me. I guess being part of the Shinsengumi in the past lifeâ€¦."

Gasping and jerking her head up Otohime grabbed his hand again. "Shinsengumi?"

Nodding he smiled down at her. "Those blue jackets in the dreams. They are the official uniform for the Shinsengumi. Haven't you heard

of them before?"

"We have but they were only black and white photos. And I was too busy trying to convince my brother and father that I wasn't crazy at the time." Her head dropping more at the thought of what her father did to her.

Kishiko hugged her from behind. "Hey after we find all the people from our dream, we can make things right. Then you can see him again and your brother."

"Kishiko. They won't understand you know that. Might even try to have us all admitted to a different crazy house."

A wink for her best friend in the world. "You never know. They might have to except the fact if it slaps them in the face."

Listening to the two girls giggle for a moment brought a smile to his face. That same warm and happy feeling drifting back to him, but that was when he noticed their clothes. 'They can't walk around like that all the time. That was when he remembered that their apartment was being paid for by their father's so that they would have a place to go to after the six months were over and they were released.  
"Girls."

Kishiko looked up at him with a smile. "What is it Keisuke?"

"I think that we need to go back to your apartment for the night and get you some clothes."

Looking down at their clothes they both gasped. They still wore the pajama like clothes that they had to wear at the asylum. Otohime laughed as she rubbed the back of her head. "Yeah that might be a good idea." Then goes glum. "But we have been gone for over a month. I am sure our Land Lord put our things out of the apartment by now."

"It was in your files, your fathers were going to pay the full payments each month so you had a place to go home too after six months."

With a glare Kishiko turned her back on them. "Those daft old fools. I can't believe that they did that to us still." Then softens her eyes as she looks at Otohime. Knowing that she was looking at her with tear filled eyes. "But in the end it all worked out. We figured out the dreams and found a friend from the past."

Hugging her best friend Otohime smiled. When she let go she looked up at Keisuke with a bright smile as she grabbed his hand and Kishiko's. "Do you remember the address or do we need to tell you?"

x

Watching from a rooftop Keiji glared with his arms crossed. The three of them had figured it out. "I don't get it. It worked so well with Keisuke it should have suppressed their memories in that first week!"

"Don't worry. As long as they don't find everyone, it will be fine."

Turning to glare at Kodo as he walked up behind him. "What?"

Looking down at the three as they walked away Kodo smiled. "Chizuru finally realized that Toshizo Hijikata and the others of the Shinsengumi were not able to do what they said they could do. After much persuading on my part finally married your father."

"And what does that have to do with those three?"

Laughing he turned and walked off. "Just before your father died during that battle all those years ago, he cursed all their souls. They will wonder plagued with nightmares for all time as they were resurrected. But with every good curse there is a catch to them."

"And what was the catch with my father's?"

Stopping to look over his shoulder with a 'I couldn't care a less look' Kodo smiled. The only way that they will all remember everything about what happened, is when Toshizo and Otohime as well as Sanosuke and Kishiko share that first kiss again."

"If they go to Kyoto the chances increase of that happening!"

"They have to have all the old leaders of the Shinsengumi to do it. All seven of them. And they have to be in the old Shinsengumi compound."

As he watches Kodo walk away like nothing is wrong Keiji glares at him. 'First chance I get you old bastard you die. They won't live to see each other again. I won't let them.' Then he turns and follows the three. Thinking that he would use them to find the others and slowly pick them off one by one.

## 9. Chapter 9

Back at their apartment Otohime set to work packing a few things that she and Kishiko would need. Making sure to pack light so they can move fast if those things showed back up again. While Kishiko went to the computer and started her research on the Shinsengumi. Looking up all the key places in Shinsengumi history.

"I know where all we need to go."

"How do you know for sure?" Keisuke turned and arched an eyebrow at Kishiko from their bay window.

With a glare Kishiko sighed. "Simple. I looked it up. I can't find anything other than Shinsengumi this and Shinsengumi that, so names are out of the question. That sucks. But the towns of Suita, Neyagawa, Hirakata, Nagaokakyo, Minami and then of course Kyoto. They had some sort of headquarters in each one of them and spent time in each town or city during the civil war."

"Do you know how big some of them are?"

With a glare over her shoulder to shut him up Kishiko crossed her arms. "You know I may not have been to college like you but I am not

stupid. I already figured that out. That building right across the street, is the site of the headquarters that they had here in Osaka. With another smaller hideout so to speak about seven blocks that way."

"That is close to where my apartment is."

"Well then I will write down where the site of them use to be or still are and we can head out first thing in the morning." Then Kishiko starts to write down where they needed to go and the address of the ruins or building that sits where they use to be.

Otohome comes out of her bedroom with a smile as she sits two backpacks on the floor by the front door. "Well that is everything that we are going to need. A couple outfits and smaller personal things."

With a smile Keisuke went back to the window, but instead of looking at the city his eyes were now on the mini mall complex across the street. Trying to remember what it would have looked like when he was a Shinsengumi.

Seeing what he was looking at Otohome walked up next to him and hugged herself. "Trying to remember what it looked like aren't you?"

"How did you know?"

With a smile Otohome sat on the seat in front of it and hugged her knees to herself. "I have done it since the day we moved here. I didn't know what I was trying to imagine it as until now. But I always felt like I knew the place. But it wasn't because of the mall it was something else."

With a sigh he nods. "You and Kishiko need to get some sleep. I will take first watch."

Worry filling her eyes nearly instantly Otohome grabbed onto his arm. "You need just as much sleep as we do Sannan."

"And I will get some just not right now. Someone needs to keep watch for those things if they make it here."

Casting her eyes down Otohome nodded then turned to curl up on the couch when she noticed that Kishiko was still at the computer. "Aren't you going to get some rest too Kishiko?"

"Yeah I will be there in a second. I am trying to see if I can find something that looks close to those things and the only thing I can find is vampires. And I doubt that is true."

With a smile Keisuke turned and looked out the window again. His mind going back to his dream once more. He hadn't brought it up to the girls, mostly cause of the emotional roller coaster that the entire situation had on Otohome, but he couldn't help but wonder. 'If those kids are their kids how do we find them? Or would they be with other members of the Shinsengumi? And if they are their kids are the red and black haired guys their husbands? Or someone else?'

With a heavy sigh he sat down on the window and watched out of the

corner of his eye as Kishiko moved from the computer to the couch and laid down on the other end with Otohime. He wondered how two girls with such different personalities could have ever become friends like they obviously were. Kishiko was more confrontational and annoyed while Otohime was extra sensitive and would cry at the drop of the hat. But in some strange way they seemed to complete the other one.

X

Sanosuke sat holding his infant daughter as he watched his sons playing in the small court yard. The only thing missing was her. The woman in his nightmare that he died trying to save. He just knew that she was not only the mother to his children but his wife as well.

But the dream he had last night was very different than any other one before. The nightmare he had up till last night was always the same thing. It showed him standing next to her with his daughter in her arms. While his sons played with a man with glasses. Toshizo and his wife next to them. Then he watches as the children are ripped from their mother and slain. He rushes to try and save them all, only to be killed himself. Then it shows his hand reaching for her hand. Both covered in blood only to drop lifelessly a breath away from each other.

But last night his dream was more calm. It showed him how he met her, their wedding and the birth of their kids. But he still didn't know her name. He did know without a doubt that he was destined to be with her and would be one day.

"Daddy! Daddy!"

Looking up to see one of his twin boys racing toward him holding something in his hand he smiled as he leaned forward. "What is it Katsu?"

"I caught a butterfly! Just like mommy taught me!"

His eyes filling with tears Sanosuke just smiled. 'You will see her again. Soon I hope.' "That's good. Don't wait too long to let it go or it might die."

Stepping up behind his friend Toshizo smiled as his own boys joined Sanosuke's. His Toshiro was five years old, Yukito four, and his daughter he held in his arms was three. And Sanosuke's twins Katsu and Matsu were the same age as Yukito.

"Baby daddy."

Sanosuke smiled up at Fuko and nodded. "That's right Fuko. Baby Hanako."

Toshizo sat his daughter down and smiled for a moment as he watched her point at the new born in Sanosuke's arms. Then he turned somber. "Did your dream change last night?"

"Yeah. It wasn't a nightmare this time Iâ€¦".

"You saw how you met her, married her and the birth of your kids



didn't you."

"You did too huh?"

"Yeah. It is this place. I am sure that it has something to do with it."

"Maybe we can remember more being here."

"I hope so."

X

Susumu Yamazaki sat alone in his room. That was the only place in the house that he shared with his mother that he felt peace and calm. The second he stepped foot out of his room the torment started again. But this time something told him that something was about to happen. And soon.

"Susumu! You bastard get down here right now!"

With a glare from his amethyst eyes Susumu stood and walked out the door of his bedroom and down stairs to find his father glaring at him like he was the devil himself. "You called me?"

"How did job hunting go today?"

"Put in applications. No one has called yet."

"Because you are a freak!"

"Dearâ€¦|.."

"Don't you dear me! We got a divorce cause of that little bastard and how you want to defend him when there is something clearly messed up!"

Susumu saw his father's hand raising like he was going to slap his mother, again, and darted forward pushing his mother out of the way in time to take the slap himself. "If you insist on hitting someone, father. Hit someone who has a chance at fighting back."

"Like you?"

"Exactly."

His mother was now on her feet and crying. "I can't do this anymore Susumu. Since you started those horrible nightmares it has been nothing but bad and drama for our family. I want you to get out! I am going crazy trying to figure out why you have them and defending you all theâ€¦|"

Susumu touched his mother's mouth with one of his fingers as he smiled at her. "You at least tried to understand which is more than I can say for anyone else in the family. If you want me to leave then I will. I will always love you mother." Then he kissed her forehead and turned to punch his father, knocking him out as he walked out the door. For the first time in his life he felt free.

And heading out straight to that old warehouse. He was always drawn

there though he didn't understand why. "At least I am free now. To figure out what this life has in store for me."

## 10. Chapter 10

Stepping off the train in Suita Kishiko had her arms crossed as her eyebrow twitched. "Jerk."

"You didn't have to hit him that hard you know."

"The hell I didn't! He grabbed my ass!"

"I know but still."

Walking off away from them Kishiko stuck her nose up in the air. "I am a married woman with kids I don't need to deal with that!" Then her eyes flew open wide as she turned to find Otohime just as wide as she was. "Did I just?"

Rushing to her Otohime smiled. "You did! You said you were married with kids! If you are, then that means that I have to be!"

Kisuke smiled as he stepped up to them. "Meaning that the kids in our dreams..."

"Are mine and Otohime's after all."

Looking around and seeing the people starting to stare Kisuke placed his hand at both of their backs and urged them to move forward. "I think we need to go on and see if we can't find a hotel. It is already late in the evening. We should get a hotel for the night and then go to the location in the morning."

With a yawn Otohime nods her approval. "Kishiko?"

Sighing she drops her head. She never could force Otohime to do anything. "Alright."

As they walk through the town looking for a hotel Otohime keeps looking behind her. She doesn't understand why but she feels like they are being followed. Not wanting to say anything she keeps going with the others. Then she spots a small run down hotel across from an old abandoned warehouse. "How about that one? It is run down but it would be cheap and that is what we need right now isn't it?"

Kishiko nodded. "I agree. Come on."

With a sigh Kisuke walked along behind them. Learning the hard way that he isn't the one in charge, he is there just to keep them safe. 'My head still hurts.'

Hearing a gasp come from Kishiko he looked down with wide eyes. "What is it?"

Her eyes still on the door of the abandoned warehouse Kishiko was pale white. "I swear I just saw someone from the dream."

"Who?"

"I don't know a name. Nothing came to me but I remember him."

"What did he look like?"

"The one with brown hair and violet eyes. Smaller than the rest of them."

Otohome looked over and sighed. "I don't see him."

"I bet he is in there though."

Turning to blink up at him Otohome cocked her head to the side. "What makes you so sure about that Sannan?"

"Look at the address of the hotel."

"3343 Kamakazuaki."

Jerking her head up. "Which means across the street is 4333 Kamakazuaki."

"I don't get it."

Smiling over at her best friend Kishiko threw her arm around her shoulders. "The Hotel you pointed at is right across from the place where we were going to go tomorrow. That is where the Shinsengumi hide out in Suita use to be." Then sigh sighed as she headed for the hotel. "Least we know someone is there. And judging by the look in his eyes he recognized us as well."

Following her into the hotel Sannan glared. "How can you be sure?"

Winking over her shoulder at him Kishiko made her way to the front desk. "He had that same deer in the headlights look when we made eye contact you did. I know that is how we are going to find all of them."

"Kishiko how can you be so sure?"

Looking over at Otohome she closed her eyes and crossed her arms. "Well just look at how Kisuke reacted to seeing us. I would bet everything I have that every other guy from the dream is going to know us the second they see us and we are going to get that same look."

"Hey that is a good way to know we aren't mistaking them!" Then Otohome turned a bright smile up at Kisuke. "And it is all thanks to you Sannan!"

Glaring as he stepped up to the counter Kisuke looked at Kishiko's head. "Thanks."

Winking at him she smiled. "No problem. Now you know should know better than to think that you can order me around."

"I wasn't trying to order you around."

Otohome sighed. "Can we not fight right now? I am so tired."

Paying for the room Kisuke gets the key and then they had to a first floor room, whose window faces the ware house. Once inside he slumped down in the couch next to the window. "I hate trains." Then he cracked an eye when he heard Otohime start to giggle. "Wasn't that funny was it?" Then he followed her gaze to find Kishiko pale as she stood on the night stand. Shooting up he gasped. "What happened?"

Reaching down and grabbing its tail Otohime picked up a mouse. "This. She acts tuff but she is terrified of mice. I don't like rats or mice but she is as scared of them as I am sankes."

With a glare Kishiko pointed to the door. "Just get that damned nasty thing out of here!"

Smiling Otohime opned the door and sat the mouse down and watched as he started to take off toward the warehouse. Then gasped when she too saw who Kishiko was talking about. Never taking her eyes off of him she forze. "I see him!"

Kisuke jumped to his feet and ran to the door, but by the time he got there a buss passed between them and the warehouse. "I don't see anything."

Sighing Otohime shrugged and went back in the room. "He must have ducked back inside when the buss went past. I am going to bed."

"Joining you."

Kisuke sighed as he fell back on the couch. All he could get was a one bed room. The girls would have it and he would have the couch. He sighed as he felt his eyes pulling shut. The breathing on the other side of the room already slowing to a sleep. 'Let's see what I dream tonight.'

X

Breathing heavy Susumu leaned against the door of the warehouse. Everyone knew he was there, but he never started any trouble and the owner didn't seem to care so he had been there about a week now. Only venturing out to see what he could find to do and earn some money to eat each day. Until today nothing out of the ordinary happened. But then he saw them! They were the same girls from his nightmare that he has had his entire life! "But how? It can't really be them can it?"

A quick glance out the window to see the guy they were with, who was also in his dream looking right toward the warehouse from the window. "It has to be more than just a coincidence. It has to me more than that. I will know if I am connected tomorrow. If they come here."

He then made his way up to the second floor where he has made his make shift home since getting kicked out of his mother's home. That wound still hurt him but he would be alright in time. 'At least she tried.'

As he laid down he let himself drift off into a fitful sleep. The images of the girls across the street still flashing through his mind as he finally let sleep claim him.

X

With a glare Keiji stood on the warehouse now with crossed arms. He turned to his newly transformed Furies with annoyance. They were in no way ready to let lose. They didn't have that blood lust yet. 'But by tomorrow night they should have.'

"Your father would be proud."

"Sumi masen?"

Kodo stepped out from behind the water tower and looked down at the couple dozen humans that were trying to come to grips with what they were now. Neither human nor demon. Just a means to an end. "For not doing as I told."

Turning back to glare at the hotel some more Keiji humped. "I take it father thought you were retarded as well?"

"Told me so every chance he got."

"Well then you know if you are here to tell me to go away that it isn't going to happen right?"

"I came to tell you of a new development in the situation."

"What is that?"

"Sanosuke and Toshizo, along with all the kids have already reached Kyoto and the main Shinsengumi headquarters. And are not planning on leaving."

"It doesn't matter."

"Nani?"

Smiling as his eyes flashed red, zeroing in on the room the girls were in. "They will be dead before they get there. And so will the others. They will find them and I will have the picked off."

With a smile Kodo turned and walked away. 'Yes Kazuma he is your son alright.'

## 11. Chapter 11

The sound of children playing. Men and women laughing. A feeling of contentment. Then the tranquility of the moment is shattered by screams for help. Shrieks of terror. Rushes of white and red all around him. Flashes of his closest friends being cut down. The sound of a baby's scream. The sight of an infant being jerked from a woman's arms. Rushing, only to slid to a halt when a sword goes through the baby. Anger rising, then pain. Wetness rushing from his chest. Looking down to see a blade being pulled from his body, before falling forward to the ground.

Gasping as he jumped up Susumu's eyes were wide and his breathing was hard. The dream was the same as always before. But this time he was in the place of the man he saw that looked just like him. "I wonder

if it has anything to do withâ€¦." Then his eyes went wide as he heard the door downstairs open.

"Hello! Are you in here? We justâ€¦!.."

"Otohome stop being so nice about it. We don't have time!"

"She is right this time Otohome."

"Hey! My name is Kishiko Shima. I know you. And I know from that deer in the headlights look that you gave me last night you know me too. You no doubt dreamed about me last night. And Otohome and Kisuke. You have to come out and we have to leave now! They are here!"

Opening a door with his sword drawn Susumu made his way down the stairs quietly. "They who?"

Turning with a glare Kishiko crossed her arms. "I see it. You know who we are. Theyâ€¦!..they are the things in our nightmares. With white hair and red eyes."

"Those things are just a figâ€¦!"

Everyone's eyes went wide when they heard the maniacal laughter from outside. Susumu looked at the other girl and how she shook with fear and latched onto the other girl. His eyes narrowing he turned. "This way. Come on."

Kisuke grabbed the girl's hands and rushed up the steps and slammed the door shut just as they heard a window bellow break. "Why are we going up? Shouldn't we be trying to go out a back way or something?"

Shaking his head Susumu ducked in a door and grabbed a bag that he slung over his shoulder and tossed a sword to Kisuke. "I have known for a long time that my dream is something more than a dream. Seeing you three yesterday confirmed it for me. You don't need to spend time here trying to convince me about it. I know a way out of here and the city. I have used it before."

Otohome's eyes went wide as she looked up at him. "You mean they have been here before?"

"They have. Come this way."

Susumu lead them up the rest of the building and to the roof. Once their Otohome froze when she heard the screams of people that were being slain. "Kishiko!"

"I'm right here. What way Susumu?"

Though he started to turn Susumu turned with wide eyes to her. "You said my name."

"You told us."

"No I didn't."

"You had to have!"

"Kishiko he didn't."

With a smile Suzumu turned so that his back was to them and looked over his shoulder. "Further proof that my dreams were so much more than that. This way!" Then he reached out and grabbed Otohime's hand and lead her, Kishiko behind her, and Kisuke taking up the rear. At the back end of the building there was a small plank that crossed over to another vacant building. Without warning her he lifted Otohime into his arms and rushed across the plank. Kisuke doing the same with Kishiko. Pulling screams from both girls.

They quickly made their way down the floors of this building and out a back door into a rural neighborhood. "Come on."

"How do you know where you are going again!"

Looking down into her tear filled eyes Susumu smiled. "I used to live here up until about a week ago so I know where to go."

As they ran past the house his mother lived he stopped and glared. He heard the fighting. The slap. "That bastard!" Then he let go of Otohime's hand and rushed into the house knocking his father out again. He bent down next to his mother and smiled at her. "Mother you have to trust in your son. I know I caused you grief but you must trust me. Go sit in my room. You will be safe there." Then he glared at the door as the faint sound of the laughter could be heard again. "Please."

Hearing the crazy laugh and the worry in her son's face she hugged him. "I love you Susumu. I always will." Then she fled up the stairs and to his room while he ran out the door, once again grabbing Otohime by the hand.

Otohime looked up at him once they got away from the house. "What happened?"

"Taking care of someone who stood by me when the world was against me. Since they started."

Finally after what seemed like forever they stopped in the middle of some woods. Susumu held their knees as they hung their heads trying to catch their breath. Otohime and Kishiko falling to the ground laying on their sides. "If we didn't loose them then I don't know what the hell will."

"Agreed."

Susumu stood up then gasped as he, without thinking about it drew his sword and rushed forward with Kisuke and ran two of the creatures through the heart. "Damnit!"

Kisuke fell back to stand over Otohime while Susumu stood over Kishiko. Looking to the taller man Susumu glared. "What do we do if there are more of them? I can handle five butâ€¦|.."

"I didn't even know I knew how to hold a sword so I don't know how much help I will be to you."

They kept their stances for a while then finally they were satisfied that there were no more monsters after them. Falling to lean on a

tree Susumu sighed. "These are different."

Looking up at him as she finally sat up Kishiko glared. "Different? This is only the second time in our lives that Otohime and I have seen them save our nightmares."

"I see sometimes one sometimes more. They never go over five though. Each time I see them I somehow know how to kill them and doo. But until today they all attacked at full night. They did this time at dusk."

Kisuke shook his head. "No. They had been at the hotel across the street. We went to get something to eat then we were going to come to the warehouse to find you when we heard them. In the middle of the afternoon."

His eyes going wide Susumu looked at him odd. "Just likeâ€|.."

"In the dreams."

With a groan Kishiko pushed herself up then crossed her arms. "So since you know this area you know where we can make a camp right?"

"Staying in the woods would be too dangerous. We must make our way back to the ware house."

With a glare Kishiko threw her hands on her hips. "Hell no! You heard the death screams and don't tell me you didn't. What are we going to do? Stroll up and say I ran when the killing started and killed the two monsters that turned to ash so I am coming back to go to bed? Get real! Or we will all end up back in the mental ward!"

"Mental ward?"

"Not going to talk about it right now. I am tired, I wanna find something to eat. And sleep that is all I and I refuse to do it back in that damn town."

Kisuke sighed. "You might as well give in Susumu. There is not fighting with that one."

Blinking then sighing. "There is a clearing not far from here that we can go to."

X

Glaring Keiji stood on the roof of the hotel. "How the hell did they get away from them? I know they are dead but how?!"

"I told you that you should not have let them go. They remembered things they hadn't remembered before when they found Yamazaki."

"What?!"

Smiling at the red eyed glare that he was getting from Keiji Kodo crossed his arms. "I tried to tell you when they got away from you at the clinic that you should not let them get away. But you did not want to listen to the reason."



"I am listening now. Spill it."

Stepping up next to the young boy he smiled as he watched the warehouse where young Yamazaki was last living at burn to the ground. "The curse that was put on them has a loophole and I would be willing to gather that Kishiko has figured it out."

"She is a woman. What does she know?"

"She was the smarter of the two. That is why Sanosuke and Tozhizo trained her to fight. She caught on faster and wasn't as trusting as Otohime was. That way at least one of them would be able to fight and would be able to live until they got to their sides. I am sure she no doubt has figured it out that the more they meet from their dreams the more they remember, and the stronger they become."

"Okay you seem to know so much about them and the guys they are looking for. So where are they going to be going next?"

Smiling as he walked toward the back of the hotel. "I have no clue on that one. But they know how to find them. The look. Though I have a hunch they know more than we know right now."

"You always talk in riddles you old bastard?"

"Of course."

"I am shocked that my father didn't cut you down."

"Your mother was a willing yet unwilling partner for him. He did end up falling in love with her at some point. And she still wished to 'save' me. He did not do so to keep her at least some what happy."

"Keep being a bastard and I will do what my father was not strong enough to do."

"We shall see. We shall see."

## 12. Chapter 12

Screams of panic and death broke through the tranquility of the day. a rush of blue coats with white diamonds on them flooded out of the compound. They clashed with flashes of red and white that swirled around them. Blood being slung off swords at every turn. The sudden sense of fear as she saw a man with white hair and glowing red eyes charging her. Another man with black hair jumps between them and is ran through the heart. As the sword is pulled from his body he gives her a lingering look of apology then falls to the ground. The pain of the same sword going through her back then jerked out as she fell forward. Her hand reaching out toward the man with the black hair. Her brown eyes locked onto his deep violet eyes. Hearing an echo of the words "I am sorry I couldn't protect you." Then a sudden rush of tears from her eyes before it all goes black.

Otohime jerks awake with a scream as she sit sup. Tears streaming down her face as she hears the pain filled voice apologizing for not protecting her. The pain in his beautiful eyes. Without a word she

dropped her head in her hands and sobbed. Just as the comforting arms of her best friend wrapped around her.

With a slight rocking motion, Kishiko held Otohime in a hug. No doubt she had the same sort of dream that she had. She heard the last words that were spoke to her by her husband before they both died. "I know Otohime. I know what you heard I heard the same thing."

Looking over where Sannan stood and the other side of the camp at Susumu Kishiko raised her eyebrows then sighed. "You both heard something someone said to you didn't you?"

Nodding his head Susumu closed his eyes with a sigh. "It was the one that was leading those things in the massacre. He was taunting me for not being able to protect the children that I swore I would protect."

"Our children."

"Hai."

Keisuke nodded. "I heard the voice of the same man. Doing the same thing to me, for Toshizo and his wife and children."

Everyone, even a still lightly sobbing Otohime looked up at him with wide eyes when they heard the venom in his voice. Taking a step closer Susumu narrowed his eyes. "There is more. Tell us."

"Hai. There is more. I know that voice. At one point in time in 'this' life I saw that man as my savior in a way." Looking up to see two sets of blinking eyes and one glaring one he narrowed his eyes. "Doctor Keiji Chikage."

Making the connection right away Kishiko jumped to her feet with a glare even more livid than Kisuke's! "You mean to tell me that the sorry bastard that was going to force us to stay in that nut job of a place is the one that is the leader of the damned things in our dreams!?"

"I am. I see him, he is the one that kills all of your children. The two of you, your husbands, myself, Susumu and five others. I could never see any faces other than those of us here and those we a trying to find. Last night, after meeting you Susumu it changed."

With a smug smirk Kishiko half glared at Kisuke. "See. What did I tell you? After we met you ours changed three different times. And now again after Susumu. So I would be willing to bet that it will change at least five more times."

Though the topic of conversation changed when everyone heard a loud growl and looked down at a now embarrassed Otohime. Looking up at them with a big smile and closed eyes Otohime blushed as she hugged her stomach. "I am hungry guys."

Blinking Susumu just stared down at her. "Two seconds ago she was a sobbing mess?"

Kisuke sighed as he dropped his head with a smile. "These two are going to take some getting used to for you. Otohime I have figured out. Kishiko is a different story all together."

With her arms crossed Kishiko glared. "What is that supposed to mean?"

"Meaning while you are small and thin, your attitude makes you worse than any man we could come across."

Turning her back to them and her long black hair falling down past her behind. "I don't give a damn. Growing up one of us had to be a stronger one and Otohime wasn't up to it, I was so it just happened like that. I won't back down and will beat sense into them if I need to." Then she sighed as she looked around. "I have no clue where we are. Susumu do you know how to get to Neyagawa?"

"Neyagawa?"

"That is where we are going next."

With confusion in his bright amethyst eyes Susumu turned to with blinking eyes. "Sannan?"

With a smile Kisuke fixed his glasses. "We looked online before we left Osaka and figured out all the places that the Shinsengumi had a base at between Osaka and their main headquarters in Kyoto. Kishiko even figured out where they were by placing older maps on top of newer maps to get the exact location. Had we not decided to stay at the hotel right across the street from the warehouse, we were going to go to the warehouse you called home the next day."

"I see." He thought for a moment then sighed. "We need to go back in town. I can take us around through the woods and get to the train station without having to go anywhere near the warehouse. Otherwise we will be walking there and that could take about five or six days."

With a sigh Kishiko dropped her arms and her head. "If we have to we have too. I just hope that the same thing doesn't happen in Neyagawa."

"It may."

Glaring up at Sannan Kishiko crossed her arms again. Her green eyes narrowing. "Come again?"

"It happened at the asylum. It happened at the warehouse. It may happen in Neyagawa and the others that we go to. We have to expect that Keiji knows where they are and he is going to stop us from trying to find them and reunite with them."

"Why would he want to do that? It isn't like we can go back in the past and change things."

With a sigh Kisuke dropped his head. "Think about it Kishiko. I didn't even know that I could use a sword in this life. I did in the dreams but until last night I had never touched a sword in my life."

Her eyes going wide as it sank in what he was saying. "We remember more stuff and become stronger the more we get together."

"I have a feeling that we won't see your husbands until the end. Everything seems to be centered around the two of you, your husband and children."

Nodding Susumu came up next to him. "The dreams all show us trying to protect them and dying trying."

"It makes sense now though."

Standing with a still growling stomach Otohime cocked her head to the side, her brown eyes curious. "What does?"

"Why he was so excited to see the two of you there. We had people that had been plagued with night mares before and not once had he suggested that I use the medication that we gave to the two of you. He was adamant about you taking it and forgetting. I want to know what the two of you knew that would make him want to kill you then and not want you to remember anything this time."

"Good point but can we talk about it later?" Then she gasped and jumped behind Kishiko as her stomach let out another loud growl. "I am really hungry."

With a smile Susumu reached out and took her hand and lead her off. "Do you like strawberries?"

"I love them."

"There is a bush that would have big ones this time of year if you would like to eat some."

"I would love it!"

As they all made their way toward the bush, Susumu leading the way followed by Otohime and then Kishiko, Kisuke took up the rear. He kept looking behind them as his hand rested on the sword that he now had on his hip. It felt right having it there and he didn't know why that was. But he could also feel like someone was there. Watching. Waiting. 'Not this time. I won't let them die this time Keiji you bastard. Now I understand why you suppressed my dreams. What are you trying to stop them from doing?'

X

The scream of a baby woke Sanosuke from a sound sleep. His nightmare was just getting ready to start so he was glad of that. He rushed from his bed and to his daughter's as he lifted her in his arms. "There there Hanako. I promise you that we will be with your Mama soon."

As she started to settle down he sat back on the bed. "I hope sooner rather than later."

"Did you get to have your nightmare tonight?"

"No. It just started when she woke me up. I will have it at some point though."

"It will be different this time."

Turning to look into the deep amethyst eyes of his friend her blinked. "Again?"

Toshizo nodded from his spot in the doorway. "It has been a few days since it changed. I have to wonder though."

"Wonder about what?"

"If they are searching for us like we have been searching for them for so long. Are they making their way to Kyoto like we did and the closer they get the more our dreams change?"

Looking down into the bright eyes of his daughter Sanosuke smiled. "I hope so. I get the same feeling when I think about her. That she is coming and we need to just stay here."

"Hai."

After his friend walked away Sanosuke looked out the window into the moon. His eyes seeing a flash of the black hair and green eyed woman that was smiling standing at his side holding Hanako. "Where are you?"

### 13. Chapter 13

With a sigh Souji sank down onto the branch of the largest tree in the park near his house. This park has always been a place to find peace for him from his stress of the day. Between his job and his mother always calling him and going on and on about how he needs to see help for his nightmares, he welcomed his evening hours here in the park. But as of late his nightmares have been changing. He was seeing different things. More things. And the last couple of nights he had been hearing the voice of the one who kills him. 'I wonder why they are changing? And why has the dream been centered around those women anyway?'

"Would you please listen to reason!"

"I will not! We are doing this for a reason right? So lets just go to this park see if anyone is there."

Cracking his eyes open Souji looked toward the voices and gasp as his eyes go wide. It was them! It was the women and two of the men from his nightmare! Quietly he went just a bit higher in the tree so that they wouldn't notice him. 'They are heading right here? This can't be happening!'

Stopping right underneath the tree Kishiko folded up the map that she had made. Putting it in her pocket she crossed her arms and sighed. "Well according to the map this is where the heart of the old headquarters here in Neyagawa should be."

Looking around as she clung to her friend Otohime was clearly nervous. "I feel like someone is watching us Kishiko."

Looking all around Susumu sighed. "Otohime there is no one here other than the kids playing. And they aren't watching."

His eyes narrowing as he too scanned the area Kiskeya crossed his

arms. "However I agree with her. Don't tell me that you don't sense that someone is watching us?"

"I do but it isn't one of those monsters."

Her frightened brown eyes jerking up to look at him. "You are sure Yamazaki? I don't ever want to see those things again. Their red eyes and white hair freak me out."

"I am sure." Susumu then sighed as he sat down and leaned on the tree. "It could be one of them from the nightmares."

Her arms still crossed Kishiko turned her nose up in the air as she closed her eyes. "Well then they have seen us and know we are from their dreams. I am not going to go through trying to talk my way into making anyone else see reason either. I would rather just beat some sense into them and make them see reason."

Looking at her with an annoyed glare Kisuke let his eyebrow twitch. "Just like you listen to reason and came straight here from the train? It has been a long time since any of us ate. I know I am getting hungry andâ€|."

Everyone including Kishiko looked back at Otohime when her stomach once again let out a loud growl. With a sigh and softer eyes Kishiko turned and looked at her. "Otohime. Why didn't you tell me you were hungry?"

"Because I wanted to come too. But can we go find something to eat now?"

"Yeah come on."

Susumu and Kisuke both sigh as they drop their heads and follow after the girls. "Kisuke why does she listen to her at the drop of a hat but argues with us?"

Shaking his head Kisuke let out another sigh. "I have no clue."

Turning a glare on them Kishiko stopped. "Because Sano made sure that I could kick your asses if you got on my nerves." No sooner had that come out when everyone gasped and their eyes went wide. She turned to Otohime. "Sano? Could he be?"

"I don't know. Probably."

"I would say someone is here then."

Looking up at Kisuke Otohime gave him a odd sideways look. "How do you figure that one?"

Smiling down at her Kisuke fixed his glasses. "Think about it? When the two of you met me? We made the connection to us and the Shinsengumi. Then when we met Susumu, we heard Keiji's voice and made that connection. Perhaps that name is one that you remembered because someone is close by."

Turning around with a glare Kishiko walked on with Otohime. "Fine then. After we eat, we come back here and we just stay under that

tree until they decide to show their faces."

Once they were out of the park Souji dropped out of the tree with wide eyes. He knew that the coats that everyone wore were the Shinsengumi but he never thought about him being one. But it made sense now. And he knew all four of them from his dream. But what sealed the deal for him was the name Keiji. His eyes narrowed as he followed them. "Keiji Chikage. Son of Chizuru Yukimura and Kazama Chikage. They could only have known that if they have them as well."

X

Sitting on the balcony of the hotel Kisuke let out a sigh. It was little after midnight and the girls were finally asleep. Susumu sitting right next to the door. They would get some sleep here and there but for the most part were on look out tonight. Something didn't feel right tonight. "Who is it that is here?"

"My name is Souji Okita."

Turning a glare to the empty balcony right next to him Kisuke started to reach for the pool stick case that carried his sword. "And who are you exactly Souji Okita?"

Stepping out on the balcony and giving the man with the glasses a sly smile as he turned to face him with crossed arms. "That would be me. Kisuke."

"You know my name?"

Laughing as he sat down Souji put his hands behind the back of his head. "Only because I heard the girl with the green eyes say your name a million times. I heard all your names. Though I am guessing the other guy is Susumu Yamazaki. Since each girl called him something different."

His eyes were still wide as he relaxed. "Howâ€¦".

"I was in the tree. I followed you all to the restaurant. Never thought of me being one of the Shinsengumi. Well that was till a few nights ago. When the leader of those damn things said that I would die like the Shinsengumi scum that I was."

With a sigh Kisuke closed his eyes as he noticed Susumu coming toward the balcony. "I see. That man's name isâ€¦".

"Keiji Chikage. When I heard you say his name I figured it was more than a fluke chance that you guys are here and look just like in the nightmare."

"You know his name?"

Nodding Souji's eyes narrowed and took on a look of pure rage. "I could always see a mouth saying something to me as his sword was run through my heart. But until a few nights ago I never heard anything. It has changed twice."

"It has changed twice because of the girls meeting me and then we found Susumu Yamazaki. I am Kisuke Sannan by the way."

Nodding his head Souji looked up at the sky as he stood and leaned on the fencing. "What I heard him say and then you saying his name caused me to put two and two together. What the mouth had been saying all along was, 'You will die like the Shinsengumi scum that you are. You will die at the hands of Keiji Chikage! Son of Kazama Chikage and Chizuru Yukimura will end the Shinsengumi.' Or something like that."

Smiling Susumu turned and looked back to where the girls shared a bed. "Kishiko will be happy to know that she doesn't have to convince you to come with us."

Leaping up on the fence and jumping to land in front of Kisuke, Souji smiled. "She is a little spitfire from what I have seen. I gather we are going to have a lot of fun together."

A glare on his face Kisuke glared. "She isâ€|."

Laughing as he leaned back on the fence. "The mother of some of the kids and wife of someone else I get that. I saw that much in the nightmare so far. I just love to get people like her a hard time. I find it amusing."

Susumu let out a sigh as he leaned against the wall. "Your nightmare will change tonight."

"Huh?"

"The nightmare changes with the more people that they come in contact with. I gather it will change again tonight. If not tonight cause they have not seen you yet, it will tomorrow night."

His eyes going back to the girls he sighed. "So how do you guys figure it has to do with them?"

A soft smile Kisuke turned and looked at the girls. "They are the ones that everyone we are trying to find are fighting to protect against those things. One thing you should know, those things are following us as well. They attacked at the clinic where I worked for Keiji for a few years now. I had no clue who he was until after I met the girls and we found Susumu. That was when we all started to hear someone talking in the dream and not just screams. It has to be centered around them."

Sitting down on the chair and propping his feet up Souji smiled. "Well this is going to be interesting? So where are we headed after we leave this dump of a town behind?"

"From here we go to Hirakata. Where we should find one if not two more. After you there are six more that we need to find between here and Kyoto."

"So how do you know that we need to go to Hirakata?"

A soft laugh as he crossed his arms. "That would be thanks to Kishiko. After we put together about the Shinsengumi, she was the one who had the idea to find all their headquarters. They stretch from here in Osaka all the way up through Kyoto where they were based out of during the civil war. That is where we are headed. Once we get



there I have a feeling that everything will be made clear to us."

A smile as he gave a nod was all that Souji was going to do. He figured something more was going on than just nightmares and seeing them, the name Keiji Chikage. It made sense to him now. 'This is going to be interesting. I wonder what the others are like?'

#### 14. Chapter 14

Screams could be heard throughout the area. Frantic running around. The sound of swords slicing through flesh and bone. The unmistakable sound of blood being slung to the ground. The wailing of an infant. Then the feeling of having something jerked away from her. Turning with wide teary eyes, a monster holds the infant with a sword through its head. Flashes of white and the same sword is run through the red haired and amber eyed man. As his eyes turn to look down he smiles. "I love you Kishiko."

Jerking awake and vaulting to a sitting position, Kishiko was wide eyed and breathing hard. "Oh man. I can't keep having that one."

"Are you alright?"

Turning to the worried eyes of Kishiko Kishiko nodded then blinked. "I will be when this is over. Why?"

Walking over to the bed and reaching out to catch a tear as it rolled down her cheek he showed her. "You are crying."

Gasping as she whipped her eyes she ducked her head. "I know the man in the red hair is my husband. I wish I knew if Sano was his name or not."

"I have not the slightest clue."

Before Kishiko could react to the strange voice, next to her Otohime screams as she shoots up and straight into her arms sobbing uncontrollably. With a sigh Kishiko hugged her and dropped her head. Willing her tears to stay at bay while she comforted her friend. "I know. I know what you saw. You don't have to say a word."

Nodding her head all Otohime did was sob. She just watched as her daughter was ripped from her arms and murdered! How could anyone have done something like that to a child! Looking up at Kishiko through pain filled eyes. "We have to hurry up and get to Kyoto. I know that then I will have peace again. Please?"

"What happened to your little plan?"

Looking to the right, Otohime's tears started to stop and Kishiko's were gone and replaced with a glare. Standing up on the floor Kishiko glared as she crossed her arms. "Who the hell are you?"

Standing up as well with a smug smile, Souji crossed his arms. "I am Souji Okita. I am the one you went to the park looking for."

"Excuse me?"

"I was up in the tree where you couldn't see me. I heard what you guys were saying, recognized you andâ€¦." But instead of finishing what he was saying, Souji found himself slamming up against the wall with a stinging feeling in his jaw. "Well then."

"That is just cause you caught me in a foul mood and instead of saying something then you wait untilâ€¦..when did you show up?"

Not trying to hide his smile Kisuke fixed his glasses. "Not long after you and Otohime fell asleep he made himself known."

Turning her back to him she crossed her arms and stuck her nose up in the air. "Well then. You aren't anything than a creeper."

Blinking Souji looked at her as he stood up. "A what?"

"Creeper. Creeping around in the middle of the night. Either you are a creeper or a hentai. Or you could be both."

"Wouldn't you like to know."

"You wish I did."

Then everyone jerked their heads up. It was that maniacal laughter again. Kisuke glared. "They are here!"

Grabbing Kishiko's hand Kisuke rushed out the door and toward the stairs. Right behind him was Susumu carrying Otohime and Souji taking up the rear. When he hit an emergency exit he looked out the window as all of them drew their swords. "Damnit!"

Looking over his shoulder Kishiko gasped when she saw one of them walking past the door. Then she turned when she saw Souji moving. "What are you doing?"

"You two stay with the girls and pull them through. I will clear us a way through to the woods. Then we will circle around to the park and make our way to the train station there."

Kisuke nodded then watched as Souji charged out and killed the creature with little effort and great speed. Then he pulled Kishiko with him as he rushed through the door following Souji and being followed by Susumu and Otohime. He followed him until they reached the park. Soon as they did a barrage of gunfire was heard a few miles back at the hotel, then the laughter was silenced.

Dropping to the ground breathing hard Kishiko glared at the ground. "I swear it is almost like Keiji is following us and trying to kill us off before we get to Kyoto."

Breathing hard himself Kisuke glared toward the hotel. It did seem like that. "Then that would mean that when we finally get to Kyoto with everyone, what we think will happen. Everything will be made perfectly clear to us."

Standing now, the only one out of breath Otohime sighed as she hugged herself. "So that means that we are going to have to deal with those things another three times at least. Then a fourth time in Kyoto."

"Hopefully by then we will have everyone together and know exactly what went wrong in our dreams and fix the problem."

Now rather serious Souji sighs as he crosses his arms. "Never seen them around here before so that has to be the case. He has to be following the girls. If he wanted to kill us, I would have seen them before cause they would have come after me from before today."

"So that settles it. We will order breakfast on the way to the train station and head to the next town."

Looking up at Kishiko, Otohime smiled. "So what are we waiting for? From here we are going to go to Hirakata right?"

"Yep."

Walking away Souji laughed. "Well come on. I know a good place where we can stop and get something to eat."

Everyone following him Kishiko glared. "Where is that?"

Winking over his shoulder Souji smiled. "A little restaurant that I work at. After all I need to stop by there and tell my boss that I won't be back to work tomorrow."

"Oh so we are going on a social call then right. Creeper."

Laughing Souji turned and lead them on down the road. He knew his life was going to be more than nothing and nightmares. Even if they die when they do get to Kyoto, at least his life is going to be exciting for once. And part of him could not deny the fact that he is curious to know what exactly it means. And to see how it is going to change as they meet more people from it.

## 15. Chapter 15

Hajime sighed as he walked along with his friend Isami. There was just something about him that lead him to believe that he would be a great leader one day. Of something. But what drew them to each other was how remarkably they resembled those in the same dream that they had. It was the same nightmare night after night. The same one, only from two different perspectives.

"What are you thinking about so intently today Hajime?"

With a sigh Hajime let his eyes close for a second then looked up at the cherry blossoms as they walked beneath them. "Trying to figure out how we have the same nightmare, but why it has changed so in the last few weeks. I don't understand."

Nodding with his own sigh Isami rubbed the back of his neck. "I know what you mean there. It is like they are changing but we can't figure outâ€¦" Then he found himself being cut off as he was shoved into a store and away from the window. "Hajime?"

"Look."

Looking out the window Isami gasped as his eyes went wide. There standing just in front of him were the two girls that everyone is

trying to protect in his nightmare! In the flesh! And it wasn't only them it was three of the guys as well! 'This can't be really happening! This has to be more than a coincidence.'

X

"Damnit where did they go? I know I seen two of them!"

"Such language for a lady. Unbecoming."

"Oh go get bent will you Souji. I don't need your damned permission to say whatever in the hell I want."

"Kishiko please."

"Fine."

"In any event, we might as well go and find a hotel. Get something to eat then walk around the area again."

"Sannan is right Kishiko."

"Only cause it is you wanting me to Otohime. Souji can go suck on a cock for all I give a damn about."

"And here I thought we were going to live happily ever after."

"In your dreams creeper."

X

Stepping from the store Hajime looked at Isami then turned to walk the opposite way. There was no way that they were really from the dream. None. It was total coincidental that they were there and looked just like the girls in the nightmare. Nothing more and nothing less. 'Still.'

"So you thinking about them as well right?"

"They have nothing to do with us. It is clear that they are from a past life where we seemed to be Shinsengumi but other than that they just resemble them."

"More like look dead on them you mean."

"I still say they have nothing to do with it."

Turning to see a glimpse of them as they rounded a corner Isami sighed. "I am not entirely sure about that my friend. I have a feeling we will not only be seeing them again but more so."

"You over think things."

With a half glare for his friend Isami crossed his arms. "I may over think things but you cannot deny that there is something familiar about all of them? Not just the girls but those guys too."

Not even looking at him Hajime sighed. "There is something. But I am sure it is only because of the dreams and how they all resemble them."

"That can't be a€|"

"It is. It has been proven that when someone has the same dream over and over like the two of us do we start to see things in others that we think is from the dream."

With a smile as he closed his eyes Isami laughed. "Sure Hajime. That is why you cut me off mid sentence and shoved me in that store. Because it means nothing right?"

"Exactly."

"Man you are a bad liar."

X

The sound of multiple screams jerked Sanosuke and Toshizo out of their thoughts sitting in the court yard. All six of their children were screaming. Doing the best they could to calm them down, both men were at a loss for what was going on. Once they were no longer crying, Sanosuke looked down at Matsu with worry in his told eyes. "What happened?"

Tears spilling from his eyes Matsu looked up at his father and tried not to cry again. "I don't know about the others but I had a dream. A dream that Mama came with friends. Then a man with white hair and red eyes came, and he killed everyone."

Seeing his son's melt down Sanosuke pulled him in and hugged him and Katsu at the same time as he held Hanako in his other arm. He gave Toshizo a look that they both knew. This had to mean that they were making their way to Kyoto and putting stuff together.

After a while, all the children were finally sleeping comfortably and soundly. Standing in the doorway of the room the children now shared, Sanosuke once again looked up at the full moon. "That settles it. Something is happening and now it is starting to effect the children. Even Hanako acted like she had the same nightmare."

"Indeed. When Matsu told you what his dream was they all started nodding their heads in agreement. Just how long do we have to wait before they get here is what I want to know. It is bad enough that we have to deal with them, but now them?"

With a sigh as he walked to the edge of the walk and sat down Sanosuke nodded. "I get ya on that one Toshi. But as much as I hate it, waiting here is going to be the best thing that we can do. We have to be here for them to find us right?"

"Exactly."

Sanosuke watched as his friend walked away from him and went into his own room with a sigh. He however looked back up at the moon. "I just wish I could call your name out to the moon one time instead of just asking where 'you' are. Please hurry."

X

Once his door was closed Toshizo closed his eyes as a single tear

streamed down the right side of his face. Until he found his kids in the same orphanage that Sanosuke did, and ironically ran into him and both knew instantly, he felt incomplete. Like his whole world was just missing.

Having his children with him, and them just somehow knowing who he was when he seen him helped him a little. A flash of the black haired and brown eyed woman from his dream, smiling and happy caused his eyes to open and more determined than ever before. "Once you get here I will be complete and I know it. And I will be damned if I let the same thing happen again to you and our children. No way in hell."

X

Sitting outside on the balcony both Otohime leaned on each other and both looked up at the moon with different expressions. Kishiko was more focused on going straight to the site of the headquarters for the Shinsengumi in this town and finding them and making them see it her way no matter what she had to do. While Otohime had more of a depressed look on her face as she thought about her husband and children.

Looking up at Kishiko Othime sighed. "Do you think that the children will be there with them when we get to Kyoto?"

Blinking Kishiko looked down at her and then sighed. "I don't know. I have a feeling they might be, but I am not entirely sure. We may have to track them down though I don't know how we would do that when we don't even know their names."

Laying her head on her friends shoulder Otohime let out a long sigh. "I am glad that we met that day Kishiko. I don't know where I would be or what would have become of me had I not known you from such an early age."

"I know what you mean there. Makes me wonder if we were childhood friends in the past too. I mean we are only three months apart in age."

"I know. I never want to be without you again. Once this is all over and I have you, and we have our husbands, children and friends. Then I just know that life is going to be good again. I know it."

Leaning her head against Otohime's for the first time in a while, Kishiko smiled a true smile. "So do I."

## 16. Chapter 16

With a glare, Kishiko had her arms crossed. She stood in front of the old abandoned warehouse with Otohime, Sannan, Yamazaki and Souji. But still there was no sign of anyone from the dream. Though she knew what the two looked like, she didn't know how to find them! "Damnit all to hell where are they at? We have been here since dawn and nothing."

Laughing as he leaned against the building, Souji smiled. "Perhaps that is because you were wrong and didn't see anyone yesterday?"

"Oh go get bent Souji."

Otohome started to laugh but then everyone tensed when they heard that laughter again. The same laughter from their dreams. The same laughter that seemed to be following them from town to town hunting them! She grabbed Kishiko's arm with desperation. "They found us again!"

Kishiko started to look toward Sannan when she and Otohome let out a scream when they were pulled from behind. Looking up she gasped as she kept her hold on Otohome. "It's you! I saw you two yesterday!"

With a warm smile, Isami looked down into her green eyes and winked. "That's right. Sorry about the vanishing act. We weren't sure how to handle that, and it took me all night to convince Hajime here to find you today. So sorry we are late."

His eyes narrowing as he drew his sword, Hajime took a stance in front of everyone. "They are here."

Stepping up next to his friend, Isami's whole demeanor changed. "Can you tell how many there are Hajime? Your hearing is so much better than mine."

Closing his eyes and focusing, Hajime smiled. "Seven each."

"Fourteen this time huh. I like those odds."

His eyes narrowing from behind his glasses, Sannan was between these two from the dream and the girls, Yamazaki at his side, Souji at the ready behind them. "You said this time?"

Nodding as he tensed his body ready to attack, Isami smiled. "That's right. For the last couple of weeks they show up once or twice a week. Sometimes one or two, one time twenty. We manage to get rid of them all though." Then his eyes slid to Hajime. The first time they attacked them two years ago he got a bad wound. But that would be for a later date. After all it was only a scar on his belly now.

"Here they are."

Kishiko and Otohome screamed when the door broke down, and just like they said, fourteen monsters ran in the building. They all seemed to not even notice the men with the swords standing around them ready to fight them. To Kishiko's horror, they were all focused on getting to her and Otohome. "Oh man this is bad!"

X

Jerking his head up from feeding his daughter, Sanosuke gasped and his eyes went wide. "She's in trouble."

"You got the sensation too then?"

Looking toward his open door as he lifted his daughter to his shoulder Sanosuke nodded as he glared at his friend. "And this feeling of being helpless is driving me absolutely insane."

"I know."

X

About an hour later, Kishiko and Otohime stood still holding each other as they looked at the bodies that were nothing but clothes and ash anymore. Blinking her green eyes, Kishiko dropped her head. "Alright that settles it. The sooner we get to Kyoto the better. I can't take this anymore. I swear it is like Keiji has them hunting us."

Turning then falling to a knee Hajime glared at her. "Why would they be hunting you?"

Looking up with worried brown eyes, Otohime gasped. "You got hurt!"

Walking back into the room with a first aid kit, Isami sighed. "Usually it is easier to read them since they are only coming after the two of us. This time they were more crazied, more powerful as they tried to get to the two of you. Though I don't know about Hajime, I am sure he does, I at least feel like I did what I tried to do in my dream this time. And it turned out right."

Taking the first aid kit from him, Otohime smiled as she headed for Hajime. "Let me. Before we met Sannan, Kishiko and I were in college and I was taking nursing."

Smiling as Otohime sat down next to Hajime, Isami looked over at Kishiko. "So what were you studying in college?"

With a sigh as she slid down the wall, Kishiko closed her eyes. "I was taking mythology classes. About demons mostly. Though I never thought I would be hunted by them."

With a sigh as the girl bandaged his arm, Hajime kept his eyes closed. "The sooner you all move on then the better."

Blinking at him, Otohime sat the stuff off to the side. "What are you talking about? You and Isami are coming with us right?"

"No."

Laughing Kishiko crossed her arms. "Yes you are. Besides, if those things come backâ€¦".

His dark blue eyes narrowing at her, Hajime never flinched. "We will be able to handle it ourselves."

Crossing her arms and turning her nose up in the air, Otohime humphed. "Yeah sure. I believe that one Hajime Saito. Just like that time you thought you could take on Kazama and came back with the whole in your gut and it was left up to me the wife of the Demon Commander to fix you all up. Yeah sure."

When she opened her eyes she saw everyone, even Hajime looking at her odd. "What?"

Smiling, Kishiko leaned her head back. "What you just said. You



referred to Kazama, we don't know who that is, and the Demon Commander."

Dropping his head, Isami walked up to where Hajime and Otohime sat there still. "You know this means that we have to go. Remember what happened last year? That can't be a coincidence that she knew about having a whole in your gut."

"Right."

Both girls now standing with each other they looked from Hajime to Isami with blinking eyes. "What are you two talking about?"

Standing slowly, Hajime lifted his shirt to show a crossed shaped scar on his stomach. "This happened last year during a horde of twenty attacking us. I didn't even go to a hospital so there was no record of that so you couldn't have looked anything up on us." He then smiled into Otohime's now crying brow eyes. "We will go with you."

With a sigh Kishiko sat back down. "That works great. Though there are two more stops we have to make between here and Kyoto. Nagaokakyo and Minami. Then we will be in Kyoto."

"Why Kyoto?"

Stepping up to them with his arms crossed and a smile, Sannan looked Isami in the eyes. "The blue coats. The locations of the different places. Where we found Yamazaki. And Souji. And now the two of you. They are all locations of all the Shinsengumi headquarters for that city. If you overlap the current map of Neyagawa with one from the civil war, then you will see that this abandoned warehouse sits right where a Shinsengumi compound was." He smiled over at Kishiko. "It was Kishiko who realized it and mapped it all out. That was why we came straight here this morning instead of wondering around the city."

"I see. You are quite the tactition."

"I just like to think things through."

Laughing as she hugged her best friend from behind, Otohime smiled. "Unless someone makes you made like Souji does. Or that one guy on the train."

With a sigh and smile, Kishiko winked at Otohime. "They deserved everything they got and get. I doubt Souji is going to stop till we are in Kyoto and with them again."

"Probably right."

"Them?"

Looking up and seeing the question in their eyes Kishiko sighed as she then looked down at her feet. "Have your dreams been changing as of late?"

"Yes several times."

Both girls looking rather depressed, they both let out sighs. Kishiko brought her hands up and held onto Otohime's around her shoulders.

"Well now that we have made contact with the two of you, the dreams will change again. And ours will reveal something else about what happened that day. It has every time we have met someone new. It was after we met Sannan that we knew that all of you were Shinsengumi. But it was our stay in the nuthouse he worked in when Otohime and I realized that the man with the red hair and gold eyes is my husband, the man with the black hair and violet eyes is Otohime's husband, and the children are ours."

"I see." Isami then reached out and made them both look up at him with a soft smile. "Well we will sleep here for the night then tomorrow we head out. Where we going first?"

"Nagaokakyo."

"Then that is where we had off to first."

X

"Kishiko!"

The pain of the sword radiated from where it pierced her chest. Kishiko felt herself falling to her knees and then down to the ground. Her eyes crying as she reached out toward the hand that reached toward her. "Iâ€¦.loveâ€¦..you."

Gold eyes full of tears and regret stared intently into her green eyes. "I promise it will be different. Next time. We will undo what has been done. Be strongâ€¦.Iâ€¦..loveâ€¦..you."

"Think again. I will see it your reincarnations are tortured and then die. Just like this."

Her green eyes met with his gold then the sword came down, and severed his head off.

X

Twin screams echoed through the warehouse jerking everyone else awake. They rushed to the room to see a sobbing Otohime in the arms of Kishiko, who let silent tears stream from her eyes. Sannan walked up to them and knelt down. "Something different?"

Turning to him, as her green eyes stills pilled tears, Kishiko refused to sob. She had to be strong. She and Otohime were all each other had. They had the guys they could lean on now, but that wasn't the same. She had to stay strong for as long as she could. "Not just different. Something new too." Then she looked down at Otohime. "From her reaction she had the same basic nightmare I had. Our husbands, tried again to save us. Again we were run through from behind. We told each other we loved the other, thenâ€¦Keiji was there. He took their heads off. Butâ€¦"

Kishiko then turned her wide eyes to Sannan. "My husband told me something I have never heard before. He said he was sorry. And that I had to stay strong. That one day we would undo what was done then he told me he loved me and thenâ€¦" She closed her eyes and held her breath to stop the sob that was coming. She wasn't going to do it. 'I swear it I will stay strong. I need you with me again. I will be there. I promise.'

## 17. Chapter 17

"So would someone please tell me again why we have to hike through these back woods instead of taking the train?"

Turning and looking over her shoulder, Kishiko glared at his smug face. "Because before we could get on the train you had to run that mouth of yours and get under my skin again and my slap stopped us from getting on the train. So it is all your fault."

"It is not my fault you can't control your temper."

"I will show you temper you don't leave me the hell alone!"

"Such language! Hard to believe anyone married you with that potty mouth of yours."

"Get bent!"

"I swearâ€|"

Both turned and looked at Isami when he started laughing. Kishiko crossed her arms. "Something funny Isami Kondou?"

Smiling as he looked at her with his arms crossed, Isami let out a small sigh. "Just the way that the two of you argue. I haven't had anything that amusing to listen to for a while. Hajime can fight and is a good man but has the personality of a stump."

"I am sorry I am not as humorous as you are Isami. I prefer to be professional."

Giggling and pulling eyes to her Otohime smiled a bright smile, as her shinning brown eyes looked up at Isami. "You will get plenty of it. Kishiko does have a temper and doesn't really like it when people are rude or crude. And Souji has figured out exactly how to push her buttons."

"I see then."

Looking over at Yamazaki, Hajime blinked. "So how far until we reach Nagaokakyo at this rate?"

"Two days."

"If we run?"

"If we run?" Yamazaki's violet eyes then turned and looked at the girls as they talked with Isami. "I think that Sannan and Souji could run fast enough to cut the time in half. From where we are, if we ran for a while, rested then did it again, we would get there middle of the night. Butâ€|.."

Yamazaki then looked back when he heard a startled scream from Otohime. "Hajime?"

Looking at his friend Hajime smiled. "Isami? We are running."

"I see."

Kishiko sighed as she let him pick her up. "I am only doing this because the sooner we get to Nagaokakyo, then Minami the sooner we can get to Kyoto. Otherwise I would not stand for it."

"Understood. Shall we?"

Otohome gasped when they all took off running. Rather fast considering two of them were carrying another person with them. But she had to agree with Kishiko. If this got her to her husband. And her children faster she was all for it. But she also had to wonder. What the next guy would be like? There were only two of them left now. One of them looked to be about the same age as Kishiko and herself. The other one the same age as their husbands.

X

"Why do you put up with him Master? He is nothing but a punk kid that brings nothing but shame to this dojo!"

Sword master, Tsuji Kusaka sighed as he crossed his arms. He knew that the kid was a loose cannon. But his talent with the sword. And how anyone who showed up challenging the dojo lost to him. But there was also something about him. Something special and he knew that this was a place that he seemed to feel like he belonged. "My reasons for keeping him are my own. If you have a problem with a senior member of this dojo, then you can leave. New comers like you do not get to question why I the master of this dojo keep someone or send them away."

With a sigh the kid stood and walked out the door. "I won't do it again." But did wonder why his master put up with the reckless guy.

"Someone else that wanted to see me gone?"

Looking up with blinking eyes to see Heisuke sitting in the window Tsuji sighed as he dropped his head. "That's right."

With a sigh as he let his head fall back, Heisuke sighed. He knew something was about to happen he just didn't know what. Nor if it was bad or good. "What was his reason? Or should I already know the answer to that question?"

"You should already know the answer to that one Heisuke. I let you sleep here at the Dojo like it is your home because and you feel comfortable here. But you do have that bad habit of waking up in the middle of the night and just running off causing trouble."

"And always at the History museum I know." Closing his eyes as he dropped his head, Heisuke let out a heavy sigh. "I don't know why I do that. Just that nightmare keeps happening over and over again. And in the last six months it has changed now three different times."

"It's changing?"

Nodding as he looked back out the window and up to the moon, Heisuke had a look of longing. "Yes. It has always been me dieing as a

Shinsengumi trying to protect the two women and the kids. But the first time it changed, I saw the face of the man who killed me just before he killed the little kid I was trying to protect. Then it changed again, where I heard him laugh and tell me that I was nothing. I couldn't even protect the children that I professed to care about. And then last night. It changed a third time."

"How did it change this time?"

Closing his eyes again, Heisuke fisted his hands. "I saw more of what lead up to that point. We were all happy, in a court yard. I was playing with the kids with the guy with the glasses. Then the screams. The monsters with white hair. I heard the scream from the girl with green eyes, the little boy tried to run to her. I got him and tried to get him to safety, but then I was stabbed from behind. The boy was ripped from my arms. That was when I was struck through the heart again. This time the monster told me that I would die the same fate another time. Then he killed the boy."

With a sigh as he stood and headed for his door, Tsuji shook his head. "I am telling you Heisuke you need to go and see someone who can help you with that. It is rather morbid."

"I am starting to believe that my mother was right when I was growing up. It is something that happened in a past life. And that it may be something that is going to come true again in this one."

Laughing as he stopped in the door Tsuji looked at him over his shoulder. "Don't forget you got your first training class in the morning. Don't stay up too late tonight."

"Right." Heisuke let him leave then stood up and headed for the room he made into a bedroom. He liked the history museum. But this dojo. For some reason it always felt like home to him. And he wasn't exactly sure why. He was just happy that the Master of the dojo let him use it as a home once he was able to leave home.

Walking into his room he sighed as he sat his sword by the door. Looking around he stood there with a look on his face he himself didn't understand. He could feel something was happening. He knew someone was coming. But couldn't figure out who.

Walking over and sitting next to the window, looking out at the full moon again he sighed. He left out the part that in the last dream he could see very clearly the blue coat he wore. The Shinsengumi coat of blue and white. He figured he must have been one of them in his past life.

"But now the question is what is coming and when will I know it?"

But just as he let his eyes close they shot open again. He could hear it. That same maniacal laughter that the monsters made in his dream. Not realizing what was going on before he was doing it, he had his sword in hand running for the main training hall. The first place you see when you get in the dojo. Just as he came through the back door he glared as he unsheathed his sword. "What the hell are you?"

When they all just looked at him then charged he narrowed his eyes and put his skills to work. 'Damnit!'

X

Standing in the middle of the slain monsters that were now nothing but piles of dust and clothes, not even any blood on his blade, Heisuke just looked around. What were these things? It was like they came out of his dream to torment him in his dream. But what he didn't understand and wanted to was what they were. And why they were coming after him right now to start with.

Sheathing his sword at his side he sighed as he dropped his head. His green eyes annoyed. "Now I got to clean all this up before Tsuji gets back in the morning. Last thing I need to do is explain how clothes with dust got littered in the main hall."

X

Looking up at the night sky, Kishiko sat next to the river leaning on a tree. This was something that she enjoyed doing. She never understood. The moon was full once again, and for some reason she felt like she was closer to him. 'Now all I have to do is get to Kyoto and find him. I hope he is there and we don't have to wait for them.'

"Kishiko?"

Looking over to see Otohime sitting down next to her, Kishiko smiled as she leaned her head over and on hers. "I was just thinking Otohime. It will be good to get there and see them. I still got the nagging feeling once we see them again, everything will be made clear to us what is going on." Then she looked up at the moon as she sighed. "But tonight is a good night to be outside ya know. The moon is full again and when it is full I always feel closer to him."

Hugging Kishiko's arms Otohime smiled as she nodded and looked up at the moon as well. "So do I. Only two more towns to go. Then we should be reunited with them."

"That's right."

## 18. Chapter 18

"Were you up all night Heisuke?"

Giving his friend a glare, Heisuke nodded. "I have. I will still do the class. I just had a bad night was all."

Rubbing his temples, Tsuji dropped his head. "You didn't get into trouble did you?"

"I never left the dojo. I just had a restless night and couldn't sleep last night. That's it. Are they in the hall?"

Nodding as he watched Heisuke walk toward the hall Tsuji sighed. "Yes. Do you always have to wear that thing when you are training them?"

Stopping and looking over his shoulder with a sigh, Heisuke then

glanced down at his sword. "Inside this dojo is the only place that I can wear it and not get into a fight with cops about having a weapon on me when I go out. I have to hide it in that damned pool stick case. That is why I have to wear it. I don't know I just feel better when I got it on."

X

"A dojo? Seriously?"

Everyone stood just outside the Kusaka Sword Dojo blinking as they looked up at it. Kishiko crossed her arms. They could hear lessons going on inside. "Well this just made things more difficult. It isn't like the last three times."

"Three times?"

Nodding she looked over her shoulder at Hajime and held up one finger. "Yamazaki was in an old ware house like you guys were. Souji spent his time in a park, and then your warehouse. Sannan was at a nut house so that didn't really count cause those places aren't exactly functional."

"Thanks Kishiko."

Then she turned back to the huge gate and closed her eyes. "It makes it harder though cause if it were a warehouse or a park or something like that we would be able to just walk in and get noticed. There could be enough people in there that it could be bad if we showed up here during the day."

Headed for the smaller door at the side, Isami smiled. "The rest of you go to the hotel. I will see if there is anyone in there right now. If not we will come back tonight."

Kishiko sighed as she turned and headed away from the dojo. "This is just our freakin luck."

X

Walking out of the hall where Heisuke was just starting his lesson, Tsuji noticed someone coming through the gate. Walking to him with a smile, he noticed the pool stick case on his back like Heisuke has. "You are a swordsman?"

Laughing s he rubbed his neck Isami looked back at his pool stick. "How did you guess?"

Stopping a few feet in front of him, Tsuji smiled as he crossed his arms. "Well for starters you don't look the kind of guy to frequent bars and play pool all the time. And you did just walk into a dojo that teaches the ancient art of swordsmanship to people."

Nodding as he turned a more serious face back to the man in front of him Isami smiled. "My name is Isami Kondou. I guess you could say I am a wonderer. I just sort of travel from town to town and make money when I can. I had heard that there was a dojo here in Nagaokakyo that still taught swordsmanship. I was wondering if you could show me around and tell me about it."

With a nod Tsuji lead him toward the left. "I think I can do that. There really isn't much to see. We have a small court yard with a rock garden. And five training halls. But there is a unique history with this place."

"What's that?"

Stopping next to the small koi pond, Tsuji sighed. "Well before this place was a dojo it sat on the old Shinsengumi headquarters for Nagaokakyo. It was burned to the ground after the war ended and the Shinsengumi were driven out of the town. Back then everyone thought that if they had anything to do with this land that the Wolves of Mibu that occupied this place would come back and haunt them. But one young man did buy it and built the dojo to keep the art of fighting with swords alive in a world of change where swords were against the new laws."

Looking down at the fish Isami nodded as he took on a look of longing. "I see. I am glad someone did in that time. My parents used to tell me that with my personality I should have been born in the past as a samurai."

"Those who use swords are told that a lot." Tsuji then walked back toward the hall where Heisuke was at. "It was later revealed after his death, that the man who bought this place was one of the last new recruits to the Shinsengumi actually. That was my great great grandfather."

"I see so you are a descendant of the Shinsengumi huh?"

Stopping just before he opened the door, Tsuji nodded. "That's right. I wish I could tell the stories first hand though. He said he never met the commander in charge of the Shinsengumi as a whole. But the stories he handed down told a different side to the Shinsengumi than what the world thinks when they think of them. That they weren't just a bunch of murder hungry asses that claimed loyalty to the Tokugawa to do what they wanted."

"No not like that! Look doing it that way takes too long. If you were really fighting someone like before the civil war, you would have been cut down. Here do it like this it has the same effect and takes less time to do it."

Hearing the voice behind the door Isami's eyes went wide. He knew that voice. It was in his dream! "Who was that?"

"That was the best student that this dojo has ever had. His name is Heisuke Todou." Tsuji then opened the door and walked in with him. "He actually lives here at the dojo."

"He does huh." Isami kept his eyes on Heisuke hoping that he would look up from what he was doing and see him. 'That's him.' He then stopped with Tsuji as they watched the class. 'Look up damnit!'

"Heisuke! Take a break and come here for a moment."

Turning around only to gasp and have his eyes go wide Heisuke stood frozen for a moment. The guy with Tsuji! He sees him in his nightmare every night! Shaking his head he walked up to them. "What's up



Tsuji?"

"This guy is Isami Kondou. He is a traveling swordsman. He wanted to see the dojo so I figured I would let him see your lesson."

Isami smiled as he stretched his hand out. "Nice to meet you."

Reaching out Heisuke nodded. "Same here."

But the second that their hands touched both froze for a moment. Each seeing flashes of each other in the past. In Shinsengumi coats. Then seeing the death of the other one. Pulling his hand back Isami cleared his throat. "I heard you teaching them. That is a good teacher when you actually take time with the students."

"Thanks."

Turning back to Tsuji as he gave him a bow then smiled. "Well I really need to be on my way. This was my last day here in Nagaokakyo and I am going to be moving on. On my way up to Kyoto. Never been there and they say the old Shinsengumi main headquarters is still standing." Then he waved as he turned around and headed for the door. He hoped that would be enough to get the kid to see what was going on and come after him. If not, he was sure Kishiko could make him see reason.

X

After finishing his class, Heisuke went to his room and slid his sword down in its pool stick case. That guy. Isami Kondou. Has been on his mind since he saw him. 'This has to mean something! Maybe my mom was right and that damn nightmare was telling me something about a past life. It is not just a coincidence that he shows up and looks exactly like a guy from the nightmare.'

He then changed his clothes into something a little more comfortable, slipped on his jacket, threw his sword on his back and opened the door to find Tsuji standing there. "Tsuji?"

"Don't go get yourself in trouble again Heisuke."

"I won't." Heisuke then sighed as he walked past him. "The only problem is that I don't know if I will be coming back here Tsuji."

"Not coming back?"

Stopping as he gave him a nod over his shoulder, Heisuke half smiled. "Nothing personal. You have done more for me than anyone else in my life. But there is just something calling me. Still deciding if I am going to go. You will know by morning if I am leaving or staying."

"How?" Tsuji could just stand there. He didn't want to see Heisuke leave. But he has never seen him so motivated to do anything other than get in trouble before.

"IF I stay I will be in my room in the morning. IF I go. I won't be."

Later Tsuji. Thanks for everything." He then rushed from him, through the main training hall, giving glares back to those that glared at him, out the hall and through the door. He then looked straight into the city. "Now I just gotta figure out where he would be staying and find him."

"You don't have to look too far kid."

Turning with a start to see him walk from around the corner Heisuke glared at him. "What was that? When we shook hands?"

Laughing as he put his phone in his pocket he crossed his arms. "Do you by any chance know where the Sakura Inn is?"

"It is in the heart of town."

"Do you know a long way to get there?"

"Yeah."

Nodding Isami laughed. "Lead the way then. I will follow you and tell you exactly what is going on here and kid, it is going to blow your mind."

"Try me."

X

"I swear I am going to kill you before we get to Kyoto!"

"Please do try."

"Don't tempt me you bastard!"

"Such dirty language."

"Go to hell!"

Stopping outside the door Isami gave the wide eyed and blinking kid next to him a odd look. "So long as you don't push her buttons and do what Souji does you won't have a problem with Kishiko."

"Right."

Opening the door, Isami gasped and ducked his head along with Heisuke when the alarm clock was slung at Souji. "Damnit Souji! You have got to stop pushing her buttons!" He then turned to the angry and glaring Kishiko. "I got good news for you Kishiko."

"What could that possibly be?"

Flinching when her green eyes turned to him he quickly stepped aside and let her see Heisuke. "I found him! He was rather easy to convince, like you said Yamazaki was. He is here and we can leave for Minami first thing in the morning."

"What is your name?"

"Heisuke."

Gasping when he heard the whisper of his name before he could answer he turned wide eyes to the woman who walked out of the bathroom. His eyes going extra wide. She was the one. She was the one whose son he tried to save and died in the process! "It's you."

Looking at him with an odd look, the shy and quiet Otohime rushed to Kishiko and held her arm. "Me?"

Dropping his head with a sigh, Heisuke sat on the bed. "In my nightmare, I rush out to help fight those monsters after I had been playing with the kids with him in the glasses. I saw what happened to you and the guy with black hair. I tried to grab one of the kids as he tried to run to you but I was cut down just as I got to him."

Her eyes streaming tears, Otohime was shaking. "There is only one more person. Just one we have to get. The one in Minami." She then turned her pleading brown eyes up to Kishiko. "Do you think that we could leave tonight? We could sleep on the train since it will take two days to get there by train. Please Kishiko?"

With a sigh Kishiko nodded as she smiled. "We will sleep in a bed tomorrow night then."

Throwing her arms around her friend Otohime laughed. "Thank you Kishiko!"

## 19. Chapter 19

With a sigh as she let her eyes drift shut before she pushed them back open, Kishiko leaned against the window of the train. Minami wasn't that far away, but it was still going to take close to ten hours to get there by train. And after being up all night she was exhausted. Her only solace of peace at the moment was knowing that Hajime and Isami were keeping Souji busy in another car.

"Sleep."

Her green eyes going toward Sannan Kishiko let out another sigh. "How long till we get there?"

"We still have seven hours yet. We have only been on the train for three."

Nodding as she finally let her eyes drift shut, Kishiko glanced down at Otohime who was out the second the train started moving with her head in her lap. Fully closing her eyes as she let sleep claim her, Kishiko was only hoping that she wouldn't scream when she woke, and that Otohime wouldn't either. That wouldn't be something they could explain away so easy.

X

"Kishiko."

Blinking as her green eyes opened Kishiko found herself sitting on a bench in the middle of a court yard in the middle of the night. "This looks like from my dream but it is all destroyed."

Hearing footsteps she looked up to see Otohime, but dressed in clothes from the Tokugawa Era racing from a room and then back in it. "What is that?"

Standing she snuck up to the door that was cracked open and gasped when she saw herself with the guy with red hair at her side, and two girls helping her give birth! 'The infant must be mine!' Then she gasped as everything seemed to speed up. Like if she were fast forwarding a movie! She watches as people ran right past her and didn't seem to see her at all. Until finally they were all standing in the middle of the court yard with a very pregnant girl and the man who seemed to be her husband. Everyone drinking something. Even giving it to the infant. "What are theyâ€¦"

Then the pregnant woman looked around with crying eyes and spoke. "I know you all don't think what I am talking about will happen but I know it will. I have seen it in my dreams and I know it is going to happen." Looking down at her stomach she sighed. "Demon children grow fast. It is almost like over night they are grown. According to Kazuma."

Nodding as he sighed and kept a arm around her waist. "Our child will be grown before that infant can sit up. I hope it doesn't happen, but the fact is, that it might."

Kishiko watched as she handed the infant to her husband and then hugged the girl. "It is alright Chizuru. I have a feeling that everything will turn out just fine. And if not. We both know how strong the Shinsengumi are when they are protecting people they care about right?"

"Right."

Then everything went black, and a blood curdling scream of a child. The feeling of a being pierced in the chest. When the light was back, Kishiko was laying on the ground. Reaching toward her husbands hand. "Sanosukeâ€¦"

"We will make this right. Be strong my love. I love you."

"I love you."

X

Jerking awake, at the same time the girls were breathing hard and dripping sweat. Looking at Otohime, and seeing the shock and tears in her eyes, Kishiko kept her eyes wide. "Did you see the pregnant woman in the court yard?"

Looking over at Kishiko, Otohime nodded. "I did. They were talking like they wereâ€¦"

"It can't be true though."

"There was something odd about them. And that drink it was supposed toâ€¦"

Not realizing that everyone was around them, Souji, Hajime and Isami as well, both girl jumped up with loud gasps that jerked everyone

awake. "They must have been his parents!"

Blinking as they looked from one girl to the other, it was the usually quiet Yamazaki who spoke. "Who are the two of you talking about?"

Sitting down as she started bouncing her leg as she thought, Kishiko nodded. "That has to be it. Those things that chase us all over the place trying to kill me and Otohime. They are like demons. And the one in our dreams that killed everyone. He looked just like them, but they were slightly different from him. He had horns."

"What are you getting at?"

Looking over at Isami, Kishiko glared. "I think the us from the past knew that this was going to happen sooner or later. The dream we had. It showed us more. A woman who was very pregnant and her husband most likely talking about how they were demons and their demon child would grow so fast that it would be grown by the time my infant could sit up. That is only a few months. They had us drink something and give it to all the kids, including the baby. And once again my husband told me that we had to be strong and we would fix things."

Nodding as she smiled, Otohime looked down as tears fell from her eyes. "It was like they knew something was going to happen and helped us to be able to go back in time to stop what was going to happen to us. To change the past, which will change the future too."

Finally with a serious face, Souji met Kishiko's green eyes with his own. "And you still say that everything is going to be made clear when we get to Kyoto?"

Nodding Kishiko hardened her eyes. "I do. But we have to get this last guy in Minami to come with us or it won't work. We were all there that day. I have a feeling we all need to be there this time for everything to be made clear to us."

"Right."

X

Jerking his eyes open, Sanosuke looked over to see his crying daughter with her tiny little arms flying in the air. "There there Hanako. Daddy is right here." He picked up his daughter and then one handed made her a bottle and walked out to sit outside on the porch to feed her on this hot summers night. He had just started to have his dream, but she woke it up. "I will have to wait until tomorrow night I guess huh princess?"

He then turned and looked up at the moon. "I do wish your mommy would hurry. She has to be getting closer I can feel it. But I do wish that she would hurry and get here soon."

"Papa?"

Looking to the side he smiled as his twins walked up to him. "What is it boys?"

Sitting down on either side of him, it was Matsu that looked up at him with wondering eyes. "Could you tell us some more about Mama? I

know that you don't really remember everything just like we can't. But we like hearing you talk about her."

Nodding as he lay the now finished eating Hanako on his lap to sleep, he put one arm around both his boys and smiled up at the moon. "I will tell you both everything I can remember about her."

X

Sitting by the window listening to Sanosuke taking to his kids about his wife, Toshizo let his eyes slide to his children. He did think it was ironic that they both had two boys and a girl. And yet here they sat, all eight of them, missing and wondering where the missing member of each family was.

Standing he walked a few feet to look in and run a finger through his daughter's black hair. Hair color she got from him, but the smoothness and silkiness of it and the thick long lashes she had he knew were from her mother.

"Soon. Soon we will be together again and everything will be clear my sweet daughter."

## 20. Chapter 20

"Get the hell out of here you drunk bastard!"

"Don't tell me what to do you scrawny punk!" Shinpachi glared as he squared off with the bar tender. Drinking seemed to be the only thing would allow him to sleep and not have that damned nightmare at night. Even so, all the drinking in the world right now wasn't helping him do anything! And they kept changing!

With a sigh the bar tender turned and picked up a gun and aimed at this bastard. "You have worn out your welcome Shinpachi. Get the hell out of this place and don't come back or so help me I will shoot your ass."

With a glare, Shinpachi stood there for a moment before he hardened his eyes. A resolve in them making the bar tender shiver. "Fine. I will buy my own and go home and drink there. Who needs all this bullshit anyway! You string bean prick!" He then turned and stormed out of the bar, and headed right for the run down old apartment building that he stayed at.

He couldn't explain it to anyone but even though it was full of bugs, and ready to fall down, he still felt at home there. More comfortable than anywhere else in Japan he ever traveled too. Once it came into sight he sighed as he settled down. It was a calming factor he craved. "And tonight I am going to have another damned nightmare. I couldn't get drunk enough to pass out from the boos to not remember if I have it or not have it at all. Damnit all to hell."

As he entered the main door he smiled at the older land lady. "Hello Miss Land Lady. How are you tonight?"

Laughing with a bright smile the older woman turned to face him. "Ah Shinpachi. You are home early. Did you get thrown out of this one?"

Laughing as he rubbed his head he shrugged his shoulders. "Yeah. Well they wouldn't let me have more than three shots of sake. I don't make trouble when I drink do I Miss Land Lady?"

Tapping the boy on the arm she laughed as she headed for her first floor apartment. "No you sure don't. in fact if it were not for you paying rent here, I would have had to close down years ago."

"I am glad I could help you." Once her door was shut he half smiled as he went up the stairs to the next floor. Not many people would even look at this place. Right now he was the only tenant that she had and had free rein over anything he wanted to do. He had been trying to get it fixed up for her, so more people would want to move in.

Opening the door to his apartment he sighed as he shut the door with his foot, grabbed a beer from the fridge and then went in and opened a window sitting in it as he looked up at the starry night sky. "I just wish I knew why I had those damn things and how to stop them."

"You have got to be kidding me!"

Falling out of the window to the floor and spilling his beer Shinpachi jumped up to look out at whoever yelled but gasped as he moved to the side and peered through a tear in the curtain. They were from his dream and standing right there in front of his home! 'What the hell is going on?'

With a glare on her face Kishiko looked up at the building and crossed her arms. "I can't believe that this is a damn apartment building! I was hoping for a park or an abandoned warehouse or something just in case those demon things come again. What ifâ€¦."

"Kishiko. I know that it isn't exactly what you thought it was going to be. But there are other abandoned buildings in the area. If you get my drift."

Nodding she closed her eyes then opened her green eyes and fixed the door of the apartment building with a heated glare as she started to walk toward it. "That's it. I am going to knock on every single door until he answers."

"And what if he doesn't live here alone?"

Turning her glare back on Souji, Kishiko made him flinch. "I am this close to seeing him and my kids again. I am not going to take no for a damn answer. If I have to search each apartment I will find him and drag him with us to Kyoto kicking and screaming!"

Reaching out and grabbing her arm Kisuke sighed. "Why don't we come back and do that tomorrow sometime. We are all tired and you don't want to cause a scene in the middle of the night like this. If someone were to call the cops it would make life more difficult for us than it already is right now Kishiko."

With a sigh as she glared at the building she threw her hands up. "Fine. We come back tomorrow." She then turned softer eyes to Otohime

when her stomach growled and laughed. "We will go to a hotel after we get something to eat. And seeing as everyone here has paid for something at some point, I think it is Souji's turn to treat us to a meal."

"My turn?"

"Unless you want to starve Otohime here whose stomach won't stop talking."

With a glare as Otohime turned her big soft and pleading brown eyes on him he sighed. "Fine. My treat. But you owe me later at the hotel."

"Oh go get bent."

"I didn't mean it like that!"

"Sure you didn't. Perv."

"Enough children."

His eyes glued on the women as sweat beaded on his brow. Shinpachi didn't know what to make of any of what he just saw and heard. They were there looking for 'him'. He had to assume that the him they were looking for was him! They were all from the dream in one way or another. Even as it changed it was them! And for them all to just suddenly show up right in front of his house like they did? He couldn't explain it!

Shaking his head as he turned as he went to his bedroom he dropped his still full beer in the trash. "I need to stop drinking. That got my brain rattled or something. I am sure it is just a drunk thing and they will just be part of a big dream tomorrow morning."

X

"Heisuke."

"What is it?"

Looking over at the girls as they slept, Isami sighed. "I will stay here with the girls along with Yamazaki. I want the rest of you to go and wait for him to come out of that apartment. I will try to keep Kishiko busy tomorrow for a while. At your first chance, grab him. Take him to the abandoned warehouse right next to here. Then Hajime can call me when you get there. I will bring the girls."

"You really think we have to go to that extreme?" His big green eyes blinking as he looked up at Isami, Heisuke let his head fall to the side.

"I do. I don't think he knows but I saw him. He is there in that building, we just have to wait until he leaves and grab him. He I am afraid will be harder to convince than Hajime about what is going on here."

With a smile as he turned his amethyst eyes to the girls Yamazaki let out a small laugh. "I think if anyone can do it those two can. He



will either feel sorry for Otohime or Kishiko will give him a thrashing and make him. One way or another."

"That is actually what I am counting on. Her determines and willingness to thrash those who don't wanna believe her."

Watching as Heisuke, Kisuke, Hajime and Souji walked back toward the apartment building. Isami sighed as he closed the curtain and then sat down at the table next to it. Crossing his arms as he glared down at the table. "Stay on your toes tonight Yamazaki. This is going to be an all nighter for us. I figure we can catch up on sleep on the train from here to Kyoto."

"Right."

X

With a glare, Keiji stood on the roof as he watched the window where those damned women were. He almost had them convince that the dreams were nothing and got rid of them like he did Kisuke for a while. But then something happened and now here they were. One person and one few hour train ride from reuniting with everyone! Even those damned brats!

"You wished to see me Lord Keiji?"

"You were given a blood transfusion from a demon so that you could still go back and forth like a Fury and yet you would never die nor lose your mind. Only so you could help me in my ultimate plan to destroy the Shinsengumi. Isn't that right Koudou?"

"That's right."

"Then you are going to help in this fight. They cannot get Shinpachi and they cannot get out of Minami alive. If they do, then I will have your head. Understood?"

"But My Lord wouldn't it be easier to just let them to get Kyoto. Even once they realize that they are supposed to stop it somehow, they won't be able to figure out how. That way I can mass an even bigger arm of Fury's to march on the stronghold. Just like that glorious day. And just like that day we will win. But your parents are no longer around to ruin it."

"I saidâ€|. "

"They have already decimated my squad. I have only five men and myself. The Shinsengumi will take them and me out in no time. It would be just like before, but with more men. Either way I need more time."

Turning and grabbing Koudou by the hair of his head Keiji glared as he transformed. "I am telling you this. If they do figure it out and it doesn't turn out like it did that day. I will make sure that you die by my hands!"

Fear shaking his very core, Koudou nodded. "I swear they will not figure anything out My Lord." Gasping when he let go of his hair then jumped off the back of the building and walked away. He then stood and walked over to watch Keiji walk away with a glare of his own.

"They will all die. But not before I get my revenge on your mother and father for what they did to me all those years ago. I will show them."

## 21. Chapter 21

With a yawn and a stretch, Shinpachi stood up and sighed. Gasping when flashes of those he saw outside his apartment building flashed through his eyes. Shaking his head he went to the window and looked down at the spot not seeing them. "Well at least they aren't back like the girl said they would be."

With a sigh he turned and went on with getting ready for the day. Working at the dump wasn't the most glorious of jobs, but it paid his rent. Walking out of his apartment he reached out to hold the rail as he headed right down the stairs then sighed as the rail shook. "I will have to see her about this. She don't need to come up here while I am gone."

Once he got downstairs though he gasped when he saw his land lady being wheeled out on a stretcher. "Miss Land Lady!" Running to walk with her for a moment he gave her a worried look. "Hey what happened are you alright?"

Giving him a weak smile she sighed. "I passed out while I was on the phone with my son. He called them for me."

Looking up at the medic Shinpachi made eye contact as they started to lift her in the back of the squad. "What hospital is she going to?"

"We are taking her to Minami General."

Giving her a smile he closed his eyes. "Well I was going to tell you not to use the rail upstairs but I guess you aint gotta worry about that. I will come see ya after I get off work."

"Alright. Have a good day Shinpachi."

Nodding as he winked at her through one door Shinpachi laughed. "You take care Miss Land Lady." But sighed as he followed the squad as he drove off away from them. She was weak. And her eyes were weaker than they were last night. "I really hope she is alright."

He then turned and headed down the alley he took for work. Closing his eyes he sighed. "Oh man. I tell you nothing is going right anymore." But just as he started to open his eyes he gasped when a hand with a cloth covered his mouth. He tried to struggle but the chloroform on the cloth quickly had him fading into black. Looking up and to the side he narrowed his eyes at the guy. It was one from his dream. 'Damn them!'

X

Her arms crossed as she glared at Isami and how slow he was eating, Kishiko wanted nothing more than to just get over there and find him and make him go with them. But no he had to go out for breakfast first. And she had no clue where Souji, Hajime and Heisuke were. "Are you done yet Isami?"

"Almost. The clerk at the hotel said that this was the best place in Minami for breakfast. Oh my, she was right these pancakes are wonderful." He then gave her a smile as he held out his fork with a piece on it. "Why don't you try some?"

"I will eat on the train to Kyoto. Can we go?"

"Oh just let me finish eating. It is a shame to have these go to waste."

Narrowing her eyes as she glared, Kishiko started tapping her foot out of annoyance. "Just hurry the hell up."

Looking from one to the other Otohime sighed. She knew how Kishiko felt about this. She wanted to hurry and get to Kyoto as well. They knew that was where their husband's and children were going to be. But she also noticed that Kishiko was being more stand offish the last few days with everyone but her. And she knew it was something more than wanting to hurry.

Looking at her with her big brown eyes she blinked. "Kishiko are you alright?"

Looking over at her with a sigh and a half smile Kishiko nodded. "I am fine Otohime. I just want to hurry and get this over with so we can get there ya know. We don't know what waits for us other than them, and that and the feeling of always being watched is really bugging me too."

Looking around her as she got nervous, Otohime bit her lip. "You think someone is watching us then?"

Laughing as she smiled a true smile, Kishiko shook her head side to side. "I didn't mean it literal Otohime. I was just using the metaphor." Then she gasped as she smiled and stood up. "I will be right back."

Going to the waitress Kishiko smiled. "Hello. My friend is in love with your pancakes but we are in a hurry. He doesn't want to waste them as he says. So is there a way he can get something to put them in to take with him?"

"Of course." The young girl turned around and got a go box and handed it to her. "Here ya go. This will be perfect."

"Thank you." Kishiko then walked back to the table and shocked all three of them still sitting as she lifted his plate, dumped them on it, closed the lid then grabbed Otohime by the hand. "Now we can leave and go do what we need to. Come on boys."

Jumping up and running after them taking the food Isami half glared at her. "Not funny. I wanted to finish them there."

"I want to get a move on."

Before he could say anything, Isami heard his cell ring. Looking at he stopped and smiled. "Just hold on a second Kishiko I think you are about to be really happy about something." Flipping his phone open he closed his eyes. "Well Hajime?"

"We have him, but if you think that she can do a better job you better get her here fast. He is going nuts!"

"On our way." Isami put the cell in his pocket and then tossed his food off to the side. "Let's go Yamazaki." And then shocked the girls as he lifted Kishiko and Yamazaki lifted Otohime and they took off running. Leaving his food in a heap on the sidewalk.

Glaring at him Kishiko held onto his neck. "What the hell Isami? I thought you had to have that food?"

"It was good but it was just to stall time with you." Turning a corner to see the top of the warehouse he smiled. "I saw him last night I knew he was there. But this one I think you are going to have to show him how serious you two really are about doing this. He knew who we were but he had a look in his eye. He won't go without a fight."

Glaring Kishiko narrowed her eyes at him. "You can fill me in later but if he needs a fight I will give it to him."

Slidding to a stop the boys sat the girls down and Otohime went to Kishiko. "Let me try to talk to him first please Kishiko?"

"If you want to Otohime but if I have to I will knock him out and put him in a travel bag to get him there."

Walking in ahead of everyone Otohime blinked to see him and Heisuke squaring off again. "They are fighting already."

Turning to see the girls Shinpachi glared. "Look I aint going anywhere. Apart from those infernal nightmares I got a good life here. Get lost!"

Rushing to him and grabbing his arm with her hands, her eyes holding a desperate plea. "But you must come with us! Please!" She dropped her head and sighed. "I fear it is the only way that my memory of my husband and children will return to me. Please!"

Relaxing with her touching him, Shinpachi sighed as he dropped his eyes to look at her. "I am sorry Miss. But if what they say is real, and each time that infernal nightmare changed showed me what really happened to me and everyone else in the past. I want nothing to do with it."

"But!"

"I am not going."

Tears streaming down her face as her shaky hands let go of his arm she covered her mouth with both of her hands as her whole body shook. "Then I may never truly remember them. Nothing. I..." Then she broke into sobs as she ran from the room.

A glance at the fuming Kishiko, Yamazaki rushed after her to calm Otohime down. That guy was about to see what happens when you piss Kishiko off.

Rage soared through her as this guy crossed his arms with a smug look

on his face. Hearing Otohime sob from the next room. Her entire body started shaking. She has never been this mad before in her life. Not even when they were little and teased. He was going to be forced to go, but at the same time, pay for making her cry like this.

Walking to Heisuke with her head down so he couldn't see her eyes, Kishiko reached out and took his sword and then turned to the now blinking man. "What is your name?"

"Shinpachi. Why?"

"So I know what to tell the hospital when we take you there for treatment."

Glaring as he pointed at her, Shinpachi fisted his other hand in his hair. "I am telling you what. One you can't hurt me and two you all can forget it! I am not doing it!"

"But most of all you will pay for making her cry you bastard!" Kishiko then shocked everyone as she charged him, swinging her sword around like she had been using one for ages!

Shinpachi ground his teeth together as he dodged and blocked her relentless attacks. It was like he was facing a man with her skill and power behind her strikes! "What the hell is wrong with you!?"

"You made her cry! I can't forgive that! I won't! Don't you even care what she is going through!? What we are all going through!? You selfish bastard!" She then was able to block his hands and kicked him in the gut sending him back to his back as she stood there with tears falling down her face. "You self-centered bastard."

Holding his stomach Shipachi held one eye closed as he glared up at her. "I am not!"

"You are!" Turning away from him as she whipped her eyes clean, Kishiko dropped her head. "It is no wonder Sanosuke calls you a fool when it comes to women and a doomedâ€¦". Then she gasped as she jerked her head. "Bachelor."

Jerking around she walked up to him and slapped him before anyone could react. "You just made her cry and didn't even act like you care. You are heartless!"

Watching with blinking eyes as she ran off to her friend Shinpachi sighed as he dropped his head. "I have spent my entire life running from that damn dream. I can't just face it like that. Butâ€¦"

"What she said. It rung a bell with you didn't it?"

Looking up at Isami, Shinpachi nodded. "It did. The last time it changed. A guy with red hair, I guess Sanosuke since she said his name was running toward her as she was attacked. I took my death blow to give him time to get to her. The last thing I said to him was 'after all I am the eternal bachelor right?' and then I was gone."

Laughing Heisuke fell to his behind. "Well I wonder what he would think, or even the entire town of Minami will think that you got your

ass handed to you by a girl!"

His eyes narrowing again, Shinpachi glared as he held his fist up. "Don't you dare say a word you scrawny kid!"

"Then come with us."

"Hell no!"

Standing and opening a window, Heisuke happened to see two girls walking past. He ran over and grabbed him by the ear and drug him toward the window. "Hey girls!" When they looked up he laughed. "We are working on this place, but I figured it would be funny to tell someone that this guy just got beat up by a girl. For real."

"Don't tell them that!" Hearing the girls laughing as they walked on he glared after them then down at the kid. "Why you littleâ€¦!"

Holding his phone Souji laughed drawing his attention to him. "I got the whole fight on video. I bet it would be a youtube hit."

Dropping his head Shinpachi glared at the floor. " Fine. You win. But can we at least just stay at my apartment tonight. And one of you guys can come with me if you want, but my Land Lady is in the hospital and I want to go see her."

"We can do that. Souji, you and Heisuke go with him."

Turning a glare on Isami, Souji crossed his arms. "Why do I gotta go?"

"Cause you seem to piss Kishiko off more than anyone else and she needs to calm down." Isami then turned and headed out to where the girls were at.

Walking in the room to find Otohime still crying in Kishiko's arms he sighed. "Don't worry Otohime he is going to go. Between the butt kicking Kishiko did and the threat of that video going online, he is coming. We leave in the morning."

"Really?" Her brown eyes looking up into his, Otohime blinked for a moment.

"Really. Once he gets back from telling his land lady who is in the hospital that he is leaving, we are going to stay at his apartment for the night then leave for Kyoto first thing in the morning."

Smiling as she jumped up and hugged him she let happy tears fall down her face. "Then I will finally be reunited with them and remember everything!"

"That's right."

Closing her eyes as she laid her hand on her heart, Kishiko sighed. 'I am coming. Only a couple more days. I will be there. Wait for me.'

## 22. Chapter 22

Walking up to the desk, Shinpachi sighed as he rubbed the back of his neck. "Excuse me Miss."

Looking up the receptionist smiled. "Hello there. Can I help you?"

"Yes. My name is Shinpachi Nagakura. My land lady was brought here this morning after she passed out. I was wondering if I could see her. Her name is Hiroko Shimaru."

Looking in the computer, the receptionist sighed as her eyes have closed and she looked up at him. "Do you have any ID Mr. Nagakura?"

"I do." Reaching in his pocket to get his wallet, his eyes held worry as he looked at her with an odd look. "Did something happen to her?"

Taking his ID she kept quiet till she made sure of everything then looked at him with sad eyes. "I am sorry Mr. Nagakura. She passed away from a heart attack shortly after she arrived. The doctors said they think she knew she wasn't leaving the hospital. She left this for you." She then reached in a drawer and handed him a key and a note. "I am terribly sorry."

His eyes truly sad, he looked down at the key and the note then nodded. "Thank you very much. Where was she taken?"

"Her son came down and saw to her transportation. He said he was going to take her back to Tokyo to be buried with family."

With a smile and a nod, he turned and headed out with the others. "Thank you very much Ma'am." Once outside he sighed as he dropped his head. "Damnit. I had a feeling that I should have followed her this morning but I really thought she would have been alright."

Looking over at him, Sannan had a look of sympathy. "I am sorry. Had you known her long?"

Nodding he sighed as he slipped the key in his pocket and worked on opening the note. "I have been her only tenant for what seems like forever. No one else wanted to live there cause of how run down it was. But she let me stay there practically for free only asked me to help with repairs." He then opened the note and blinked as he stopped and stood still. "This doesn't make sense."

Arching his eyebrow, Hajime blinked. "What doesn't make sense?"

"Her note. It says that she had something for me that she wanted me to have for my birthday next month, but knew she wasn't going to make it so she wants me to go in her apartment and get it. Something someone gave her to help stop my nightmare."

Narrowing his eyes, Sannan crossed his arms. "If it is what I think it is, you don't want to take it. It will surpress the nightmare but only for a short while. The slightest thing can trigger them to come back with a vengeance."

"How do you know?"

Facing him fully now Sannan was all work now. "I know this because I worked for the man that created it. But through the different things that have happened since I saw Kishiko and Otohime it came back. And come to find out, he isn't a man after all. He is a demon. Born from a two demons that we all knew in our past lives as Shinsengumi. And it is no coincidence that you live where you do. That used to be a base for the Shinsengumi. With the exception of myself, everyone else was found where an old headquarters or base for them once stood."

"So would you know this medicine again if you saw it?"

"I would."

"Well come on. My land lady lived on the first floor of the apartment building. We will make a pit stop there and see what it is and then head up to mine."

X

"There is no doubt about it. This is the same stuff." Sannan looked at the vile and sighed. "You won't be taking this right?"

"No way in hell dude. Like you said, until the girls there started coming in contact with everyone else, I had learned to deal with mine." Taking the vile he walked over to the sink and dumped it out. "And besides. I doubt that freaky woman would leave me alone and keep bringing them back anyway."

"Highly doubtful."

"Come on." Hajime then lead them up the stairs and let Shinpachi walk in first. Once inside, he looked around. With the exception of the children, and two men everyone was there. Susumu Yamazaki, Souji Okita, Isami Kondou, Heisuke Toudou, Shinpachi Nagakura and he himself. Hajime Saito. And with the next place that they were going to be going, hopefully everything will be made clear why they have had those horrid nightmares their entire lives.

But a glance at Kishiko who sat in the window of the apartment with Otohime made him sigh. Looking over at Isami he blinked. "Have they looked like the entire time we were gone?"

"They have. I don't really understand. It looks like they are scared of something but I would have thought with Shinpachi saying he is going they would be overjoyed." Dropping his head with closed eyes, Isami crossed his arms. "I don't get it."

"It has nothing to do with what is going on tomorrow we are overjoyed that it is finally happening. It is something else." Kishiko kept her eyes out the window. Any second she expected to hear the laughter that sent chills up and down her spine. "We made contact with him. This morning. It never takes this long for them to show up but they haven't."

Flinching, Otohime moved and hugged one of Kishiko's arms as she started shaking. "Do you really think they will come?"



"They came with Sannan. After we refused the medicine. Everyone else, it was only a couple of hours before they showed up. It has been all day long since we made contact with Shinpachi and nothing." Narrowing her green eyes out the window she fisted her other hand. "They are either hiding and watching, waiting for our guard to drop or waiting until we get to Kyoto. One or the other."

Crossing his arms as he leaned on the wall next to the door, Shinpachi looked at them all with a really confused look. "Who are you guys talking about? I haven't seen anything or anyone from that nightmare other than those here in this apartment right now."

Turning his stern eyes to him, Isami had a glare. "The monsters with the white and red eyes."

"Wait you seen those things!"

Nodding as he dropped his head Heisuke closed his eyes. "We have. And we always see them not long after we have contact with the girls."

Nodding, Yamazaki looked up at Shinpachi now. "For when the girls and Sannan found me in Suita, I had hardly learned their names and why they were there when we were attacked by them."

Groaning as he dropped his head, Shinpachi let his shoulders slump. "So the things that kill us all in that nightmare are chasing the girls down so to speak."

Nodding Kishiko never took her eyes away from the window. "In a manner of speaking. Think about your nightmare Shinpachi. Everything that you all do, as well as the other two that are in Kyoto right now centers around protecting the two of us and our kids."

"And you have no clue why that is?"

Shaking his head, Isami looked over at him. "Not a clue. We are hoping that everything will be clear when we get to Kyoto."

Zoning everyone else out around her, Kishiko kept her eyes looking straight out the window. She waited for them. She knew it was coming. She just didn't know when it was going to come or how many this time. Each time it was more and more also. 'But I have to stay strong and just get to Kyoto with everyone else. Everything hinges on that.'

Standing straight as he put one hand on his hip and one hand rubbed the back of his neck, Shinpachi let out a sigh that pulled all eyes, but the girls to him. "So if getting to Kyoto is going to make it all make sense. And those things show up at the place at some point. Why don't we just leave now? There is a train station a few blocks away that leaves in an hour for Kyoto."

Her brown eyes filling with tears once again, Otohime turned to him as they went wide. "Really there is?"

"That's right."

Turning and grabbing onto Kishiko she looked into her eyes then

squealed as she threw her arms around her neck. "Thank you Kishiko! Let's go!"

## 23. Chapter 23

Once they were on the train and it was headed out and toward Kyoto without incident Kishiko was finally able to relax. Nothing happened with Shinpachi, but she knew that something horrible was going to happen at the Shinsengumi headquarters in Kyoto. For them to not attack with him, she knew that they would when they got to their husbands and children. But this time it would be different. They wouldn't die this time but live on. Changing what happened to them in the past.

"So I got a question for you now that your friend is out of it like that."

Looking over at Shinpachi, Kishiko sighed. "What is that?"

His blue eyes flicking down to land on Otohime then back up to look right into Kishiko's green eyes Shinpachi crossed his arms with a smile. "So is she always that emotional and you this cold?"

Blinking and letting her head fall to the side, Kishiko didn't understand what he meant by that question. "Explain what you mean and then I might answer you on that one Nagakura."

Taking a deep breath Shinpachi closed his eyes. "I am not trying to start an argument with you. I was just asking. Your friend there seems over emotional and cries at the drop of a hat. You however, would rather kick ass first and ask questions later. Have you always been like this?"

Understanding now, Kishiko gave a nod as she looked down at Otohime's head in her lap. "I have since I met her. We have known each other since we were in preschool. We knew the second that we touched hands that we were connected. We saw flashes of each other's nightmare then and we knew. We were inseparable ever since. But we were also odd balls out when it came to school and we were teased without mercy. It made her feel horrible and she cried every day. I felt like I had to protect her so I never let it in. I still feel like I need to protect her from the world. I can't explain it."

"But you know he does have a point. And coming from a doctor's standpoint it is rather odd Kishiko."

All eyes turned to Sannan as he looked up at her. Kishiko herself glared at him. "What it is unusual that I want to protect someone?"

"No. The fact that where she goes overboard with crying, like when Shinpachi didn't want to come at first. And yet you would rather just say it like it is and like he said, kick ass and ask questions later. You have not shown any other emotion except determination to get to Kyoto and hurting those that make her cry since we met." Crossing his arms as he closed his eyes with a sigh, Sannan hadn't noticed it. "That is what is unusual. I have seen others who have been like that, but by now they would have broken down and cried over the stress of being like that. Just unusual."

"I just don't feel like I need to be like that is all." Turning back and looking out the window, Kishiko leaned back in the seat and let her eyes drift closed. 'Though I can't say it won't change when I finally see him.'

X

"Why in the hell didn't you attack them!"

Looking over his shoulder in his underground compound beneath the outskirts of Kyoto, Koudou smiled a wicked smile. "That is easy. I didn't have enough Furies to be able to mount any kind of a challenge with all but Sanosuke and Hijikata there. And the ones you had me send to the compound for them were few and Hijikata took them out easy enough." He then turned and watched as finally the last Fury stood that he has been making. "I needed to build a force that was as big as it was last time. So I started kidnapping people to turn into furies. And with the smell of Chizuru's blood, I will be able to get them to do anything."

Kenji growled as he glared down at him. "Just make sure that they don't figure out what my parents did before I was born. If they figure out what they drank then it will all go to hell! You better kill them all! Tomorrow night!"

"Yes My Lord." Koudou smiled as he watched his Furies race all over the building. 'However things aren't going to go exactly how you think they are Kenji. I am only agreeing to this so that I can get some of your blood and then turn myself into a demon. Then I will be the one to slaughter those that turned my daughter against me and made her back out of helping me. After I kill you.'

X

Looking up with a sigh, Sanouske saw Toshizo walk into the room he had with his kids. "You can't sleep either huh?"

"They are close. Very close."

Turning to look at his boys and his little girl, Sanosuke sighed as he smiled. "I know. I could always feel that they were trying to make their way here. And now it is like they are almost here I can sense her very presence."

Stepping back out of the room Toshizo looked up to see just barely a splash of color on the horizon just over the walls. "Indeed. It is calming to know that they are soâ€|" But then he gasped when lighting went down his spine. Something was wrong. Very wrong. "Do you feel that?"

His eyes stern Sanosuke was standing also. "I do. They are coming, but I bet you that means that those things are going to show up again. Probably not long after they get here."

His violet eyes narrowed, Toshizo fisted his hands at his sides. "They won't touch them this time."

"Agreed."

X

Looking out the window to see the sun starting to rise as he woke, Souji stretched with a smile. "Dawn. Which means that we should be getting there soon right?"

"Train should be stopping anytime." Shinpachi then looked over at the girls and sighed. "So we are headed for the Shinsengumi headquarters when we get there right?"

"That's right." Standing Isami smiled. "We weren't for sure at first. But it has held true for all of us so it makes sense. That is where everything will finally come to light for us all."

Before anyone could do anything, they were all threw to the floor when the train skidded to a stop. His eyes narrowed, Hajime opened the window and looked straight ahead. "We aren't in Kyoto yet. Whyâ€|."

But then the sound that echoed from somewhere outside the train sent chills up everyone's spine. "They were waiting for us!"

On her feet now, holding Otohime Kishiko had wild eyes as she looked out the window. "We can'tâ€|they can'tâ€|" Closing her eyes she took a deep breath. "I won't let them stop us. Not now. Not this close!"

"At any rate Kishiko we need to get out of this train. They are after us and if we get out the train now and start running, we should find a place we can fight them so others won't get hurt." Hajime then jumped from the train and turned around to catch Otohime as she was helped out next.

Falling into his arms, Kishiko met his blue eyes. "Just head straight for the Shinsengumi. The closer we get there thenâ€|"

"Well stop talking and let's go!" Shinpachi then tossed her over his shoulder and took off running up the side of the train. Followed with Isami carrying Otohime and everyone else taking up the back. "You know the way right? I haven't been there before."

Nodding Kishiko glared. "I do but if you don't want to carry me like he is Otohime then at least let me hang off your back!"

"Fine. Spoiled sport." Sliding to a stop he let her get on his back and then they took off again just as the laughter seemed to get closer. But as he looked around Shinpachi narrowed his eyes again. "This isn't right. Kyoto is one of the biggest cities in Japan. Where are all the people? The sun is just starting to shine and by now they should have all been up."

Looking around too, Kishiko blinked as she held onto him as they kept running. "I am not sure. Turn here!"

"Which way?"

"Right!"

X

"You are sure about this Toshi?"

"I am. They are here. So are those things. I have to go and meet them. I have too. We can't let anything happen to them." Toshizo then started to walk off with his sword when he was stopped by Sanosuke who had serious eyes on him. "Sanosuke"

"Just make sure that you all get back here alive." His hand turning desperate as well as his eyes he glanced over at the kids who were still sleeping then back to Toshizo's violet eyes. "Bring her back to me. Please."

"Right."

## 24. Chapter 24

Standing in the middle of all the guys, Otohime and Kishiko held onto each other as they watched as dozens of those things poured in the abandoned building they found. They could see it. They could see the old wall of the Shinsengumi headquarters when they were cut off by these things. So close. They were so close. And now it looked like they were truly not going to make it after all!

With their guard up, Isami along with everyone else glared at the monsters that surrounded them. There were so many. Even if each of them could take five or six, there were still another five or six to one after that. "Guys anyone got any ideas on this one? I know we gotta aim for the heart to kill them. But I can't believe that there are so many of them!"

"I don't know. We have never seen this many of them ever." Hajime moved a foot back closer to the girls. With a half-smile he never moved his eyes from the red ones that glared at him. "Well. This has a sick twist of de ja vu doesn't it?"

Nodding Heisuke smiled as well. "All of us verses monsters to protect Kishiko and Otohime. Ironical."

Watching with a glare, Sannan narrowed his eyes. They weren't attacking yet. It was like they were waiting on something. "But still something's wrong. At the hospital. The building with Yamazaki, with the two of you. Heisuke. Everyone but Shinpachi. When they showed up they were relentless with attacking trying to get to them. Why aren't they?"

Then just as he started to ask why they weren't, they all jerked their heads up like they were smelling something then fled out of the building just as fast as they fled into it. Standing with his sword relaxed now Sannan blinked as he fixed his glasses. "That was strange."

"To say the least." Standing with Otohime Kishiko sighed. "Well then come on we need to get on over to..." But then she gasped when there was a gust of wind and she was shoved into Shinpachi. Her eyes wild she looked up in time to see Otohime scream as one of those things pulled her out the window! "Otohime!"

Scrambling to her feet she raced to the window to jump out and go get her best friend when instead she found something shocking. It was

him! It was the one with the black hair that was with Otohime!  
"Waitâ€¦"

Her eyes still closed, Otohime curled into a ball when she hit the ground with a thud. She couldn't even scream. She was so scared. She just didn't know what to do!

"Otohimeâ€¦!.."

Flinching at the sound of the voice that was standing over her, Otohime opened her crying brown eyes to see the clothes that the monster was wearing, laying on the ground as dust blew all over the place. A shift next to her and she turned her head to look up and froze again as even more tears gushed from her eyes. It was him! It was her husband! "Areâ€¦!..areâ€¦!..youâ€¦!"

Holding his hand out to help her up Toshizo smiled warmly at her. "Otohime. I have been waitingâ€¦!.." But then gasped and smiled as she vaulted up off the ground and hiding her face in his chest as she clung to him and sobbed uncontrollably. Wrapping his arms around her he let out a long sigh as he looked down at her. "Otohime. You are safe now."

"So you are him right?"

Turning to Kishiko, Toshizo nodded as he lifted his wife into his arms. He felt whole finally. "I am." Looking around as slowly he saw lights coming on he sighed. "Kyoto hasn't been the same in the last few days. It is like it is caught in the past and the present. Come. Let's get over the wall before others come out."

Nodding as they all rushed to the walls of the compound, Kishiko didn't even fight when it was Souji who lifted her as they all effortlessly jumped up and over the compound walls. But what happened the second they were all in there shocked even Toshizo. It was like the dead and broken was restored and came back to life instantly.

Turning to look up at him, though she wasn't crying, yet anyway, Kishiko looked up into Toshizo's violet eyes. Her eyes pleading with him. "He is here too right? And theâ€¦!kids?"

With a nod Toshizo looked up as a door opened. "There."

Turning her green eyes to look where he was her eyes started to mist over with tears. There standing in the door with his hand out was her husband. "Sanosukeâ€¦!.." Then conflicting with how she had been nearly her entire life, she broke into a run and threw her arms around his neck as she let her tears fly. The second they touched, she felt like she had finally come home. "Sanosukeâ€¦!"

Hugging her tightly to him, Sanosuke kissed the side of her face as he closed his eyes. "Kishiko."

Looking around as everything went back to the dilapidated way, the sounds of the city now on the other side of the walls Toshizo sighed. "Let's all go inside. We can talk there without anyone outside seeing or hearing us."

"Right."

Nodding as well as they headed for them Sanosuke smiled. "Trust me you will all seem to know where everything here is. Just go to one of the big rooms down that way. We will join you in a moment. Right now there are a few others that I think these two need to see first."

Back on her feet, Kishiko looked up at him with wide eyes as they gushed tears, pulling a mix of smiles and gasps from the group she has been with. "They are here then?"

Nodding as he wiped the tears from her eyes, Sanosuke couldn't stop the smile that was on his face as he side stepped and looked in the room he just came out of. "Right there."

Her eyes still wide and spilling tears, Kishiko walked in the room and stopped first at the twin boys. Reaching out she brushed the bangs away from each face as she smiled. "Katsu. Matsu." The tiny whimper made her gasp as she turned and went and lifted her tiny daughter into her arms. "Hanakoâ€¦|.."

Walking up behind her and wrapping his arms around her waist from behind, Sanosuke dropped his forehead to rest on her shoulder. "You don't know how long I have waited to be able to see her in your arms Kishiko. Too long."

Leaning her head over on his as her eyes half closed when her daughter waved her hands up at her and smiled. "It seems like I have been gone forever."

Standing and turning her to face him, Sanosuke couldn't wait any longer. Pulling her face up by placing a finger under her chin he dipped his mouth and pressed urgent lips to hers. When he pulled back he smiled as his own tears came from his eyes. "I love you."

"I love you."

"Mama? Mama is that you?"

"Boys." Kishiko let Sanosuke take her daughter as she dropped to her knees and welcomed the two crying boys into her arms as she cried some more. "Mama is home and I am never leaving again. I promise."

X

Walking in where their kids were sleeping, Toshizo sat down on the bed with his wife still clinging to him as she sobbed. Rubbing her back he looked down at her head. "If you don't settle down you are going to wake them up."

Jerking her head up from his neck, her eyes were even wider. "They are all here too? Kishiko and I hoped they would have been, butâ€¦|..". Then she turned her head and slowly stood up off his lap as she walked over to the other bed where they all slept. "My childrenâ€¦|.."

Kneeling behind her, Toshizo nodded. "So much isn't pieced together for us right now. Do you remember their names?"

Smiling as she choked back a sob she reached out and eldest to youngest touched their black hair. "Toshiro. Yukito. Fuko." Just as she brushed her daughter's hair from her eyes, she opened them and sat up looking at her. Her bright amethyst eyes matching her father's eyes. "Fuko" |.."

Then she choked back another sob as the little girl jumped over her brothers and into her arms. "Mama!"

"Mama?"

"Mama!"

Standing and watching as his kids were finally with their mother, Toshizo couldn't stop the few tears that streamed down his eyes. Everything was perfect again. And they were not going to let those things mess it up again. Not this time. "Otohome."

Standing with Fuko in her arms, Otohome turned her bright smile up to her husband. "Toshizo."

With a smile, Toshizo cupped her face with one of his as he pulled her to him around her waist he dropped his mouth on hers in an gentle and yet all consuming kiss.

## 25. Chapter 25

By the time the sun was just over the city, mid-morning, everyone was in the largest room that was there. The boys playing at one end, Otohome held Fuko and Kishiko held Hanako as they sat with their husbands. They did all seem to know where everything was. But nothing more had come to them since they got there.

But it was Sanosuke who spoke first as he looked at the others and sighed. "So I do got a question. When Kishiko hugged me and was crying, you all were looking at her like she had ten heads. What was the deal with that anyway?"

Smiling as he pulled eyes to him Sannan sighed as he crossed his arms. "That would be because from the day that each of us with the exception of Otohome met her, she never once acted like that. Where Otohome seemed to be over emotional about things, Kishiko reacted more like" |"

Laughing as he laid down, Heisuke rolled his head to look at Sanosuke. "She was the kind that would rather kick ass first and ask questions later. She and Souji fight constantly, she can have a foul mouth on her, and she is really over protective of Otohome. A lesson Shinpachi learned the hard way."

"The hard way?"

Crossing his arms as he turned a glare from everyone, Shinpachi growled to himself. "It wasn't like I was really trying anyway."

"You liar." Kishiko couldn't stop the smile she had. She was with her husband, had her kids with her. She didn't think even Souji could damper her mood. "You wouldn't have been able to do anything even if



you really wanted too. And all you had to do was say you would go with us. No you had to make her cry and I am sorry that pissed me off."

"Cry?" Toshizo looked down at his wife and how she played with Fuko then turned a glare to Shinpachi that made him flinch. "You made my wife cry?"

"Look it wasn't like I meant it!" With a nervous laugh, Shinpachi rubbed the back of his head then sighed as he dropped his head. "I mean, my entire life, all those nightmares. Seeing them in the flesh, I was still questioning if I was sane or not. I really didn't mean to."

"It all worked out in the end though." Isami took a deep breath as his eyes narrowed in at Toshizo. "If you have been experiencing the same things that we all have, every few days up till now your nightmare has changed hasn't it?"

Nodding, his amethyst eyes glaring, Toshizo nodded. "It did. We weren't really sure but something told us it was because they were getting closer and closer to us."

"That is right. Each time we would meet another person from the nightmare the dream would change. Show a little more for us but they down right changed 100 percent for the girls." He then turned his eyes to Kishiko as he sighed. "Though it was Kishiko that saw the most though."

Nodding as Sanosuke and Toshizo looked at her she half smiled as her eyes half closed when Hanako smiled at her. "In that dream there was a woman who was pregnant. Not long after I had Hanako. I called her Chizuru and her husband was Kazuma. They said that they were taking precautions because of their demon child. Everyone here, even all the kids, and Hanakao drank something." She then looked up into her husband's gold eyes, a mix of worry and sternness in them. "The more that I think about it, I think that whatever it is that they gave us all to drink, is what is giving us the memories of that era."

"Probably." Turning from his wife to Toshizo, Sanosuke glared. "Though, with the number of things you sensed and saw, what are we going to do about it tonight? They nearly got Otohime. I am sure they will try it again."

"Or what if the same thing happens again this time that happened in the dreams?"

"But the middle of the night wouldn't be right for that." Sitting up now Heisuke sighed. "Think about it. Right before everything happens, Sannan is playing with the kids and we are all in the court yard in the middle of the day. And when everything happens, it is daylight. If it is going to happen that is when it will happen."

"In three days time it will happen again."

Hearing the voice, all the men jumped to their feet and drew swords as the boys raced to their mothers. But it was Kishiko that knew it. "I know that voice. That sounds like the girl Chizuru from my dream!"

"That's right Kishiko." Chizuru smiled as everyone turned around to see her and Kazuma standing there. "I am glad you remembered it. I couldn't alter all of your dream, but I could some of it."

With a gasp, after a moment of looking at the man next to her, Sannan moved around in front of everyone and took up his sword. "Keiji what the hell is going on here?"

With a sigh as he shook his head, Kazuma sighed. "I am not Keiji. Keiji is our son."

"What?" Sannan started to relax as he looked at him, he resembled Keiji, but he really wasn't him. "So you mean that theâ€|."

Nodding as he sighed, Kazuma closed his eyes. "What we gave you was your own blood, mixed with a potion of sorts that the demons know how to do. It never mattered to us seeing as unless someone kills us, we would live forever anyway. However, Chizuru's dream of your deaths at the hands of our son, her pain over it. That was why we did what we did. To give you the chance to fix it and live on like you should have."

"But what about you?"

Turning to Otohime and her big brown eyes, Chizuru shook her head side to side. "No. Kazuma and I will stay in the afterlife where we have been since then. If we came back to that exact point as well, I would still be pregnant with him and we would all be stuck in the same loop."

"I see." Otohime sighed as she hugged her daughter to her. "I just wish I knew what to say to you. I don't remember you right now."

"Oh don't feel bad about that." Chizuru wanted to run to her and hug her but she knew that she couldn't touch her. With a tear tracing down her face she sighed. "In three days, this place, only inside these walls will be in a different time and space. Not the past and not the future. The only way that you will be able to set the past right and fix everything is if youâ€|"

Seeing the impending melt down of his wife, Kazuma pulled her too him as she turned her face to his chest. "This is hard for her. The spell that was cast over the potion that was mixed with your blood, has one key factor that has to be done. Or it won't work, and in another hundred or so years the cycle will start all over again."

"What is that one thing then?"

Looking up into Isami's eyes, Kazuma glared. "You have to kill Keiji. You have to pierce his heart with two blades at the same time. And you have to do it before anyone dies. The kids and women included."

X

With a glare as he stood on one of the tallest buildings, Keiji had his arms crossed looking down at the compound where his prey was. He was going to kill them all a second time. And would do so until the end of time. He wasn't going to let his parents foil what his plans

were just because they felt for those damned humans.

"My Lord?"

"Do you have more made?" Turning to Koudou he glared. "You have the same number I had when we attacked Kyoto back then right?"

Nodding Koudou bowed before him. "Indeed I do My Lord. Why are we not attacking though?"

Turning to the compound he glared. "This must be something my meddling parents came up with to make sure that I stayed out until the last moment. There is a barrier around it that refuses to let me in, and refuses to let the Furies in either."

"I see."

Turning and walking from the edge of the building, Keiji smiled an evil smile as he walked past Koudou. "Thank you for making them in my stead Koudou. But you are no longer needed now."

"What are youâ€|" Koudou started to stand up but gasped when he felt the pain of a blade enter his back and pierce his heart, exiting from the front. "What the hell? Why?"

Waiting a moment, Keiji laughed. "You were a pawn. A means to an end. I have that end now. Be gone with you." He then pulled the sword and watched as he turned to dust. Walking on toward the door, Keiji glared as he fisted his hands at his side. "It doesn't matter how long it takes for me to get in there and kill them all again. The outcome will be the same Mother. I don't know why you diluted yourself in thinking those pesky humans could alter their fate."

End  
file.